

The Official Journal of the Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.

MARCH 1999





Rules and Regs • ARRL Report • VE Exams Schedule
Public Service Report • DX Column • Regional Hamfests
Club Reports • Shack Sales • Much More!



GAND G ELECTRONICS

OFMARYLAND

8524 DAKOTA DRIVE, GAITHERSBURG, MD 20877

301-258-7373

It's Hamfest Time Again!
Will you buy used gear from some guy at a hamfest, take it home, and find
It Doesn't Work?

We've been here for 20 years!

GAND G ELECTRONICS offers a 14 day

GUARANTEE

on all used gear sold at a hamfest or at our store.
(as-is gear excepted)

If you find our gear does not meet specifications, bring it back, in the same condition as purchased, and get it repaired or a FULL REFUND!

WE BUY

Used Electronic Equipment of All Kinds.
Transmitters, Receivers, Transceivers, Accessories and Junque Boxes.
Test Equipment, Too!

MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

AND BY APPOINTMENT

VISA and MasterCard Accepted

The Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.



Washington, DE

In this month's issue . . .

Regular & Special Features:		
Regional Hamfests	. 4	Dulles Amateur Radio Group 27
ARRL Report	5	Green Mountain Repeater Association 29
Member Clubs	6	Historical Electronics Museum ARC 30
DX DX DX	12	Loudoun Amateur Radio Group 31
Amateur Radio Training	14	Maryland Apple Dumpling Radio Am.Soc. 32
Examination Schedules	15	Maryland Emergency Phone Net 32
Training Classes	18	Metropolitan Comms. Network Radio Club 33
Shack Sales	20	Mid-Atlantic DX and Repeater Assoc 33
		Montgomery Amateur Radio Club 34
Club Columns:		National Capital ARES Council 35
Alexandria Radio Club	20	Potomac Valley Radio Club
Anne Arundel Radio Club	20	Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club 37
Antietam Radio Association	21	Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club 38
Arlington Amateur Radio Club	22	Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club 38
Capital City Amateur Radio Society	26	T-MARC
Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club	26	Vienna Wireless Society 40
Columbia Amateur Radio Association	27	Woodbridge Wireless, Inc 41

Foundation Officers . . .

Foundation President

Chuck Sommer, N40SD, (301) 249-5701

Executive Vice President

Al Brown, KZ3AB, (301) 490-3188

Vice President

John Chitwood, K3RGB, (301) 799-7360

Vice President

Hugh Katz, KB3TB, (301) 262-1733

Vice President

Mary Morris, N4TCI, (703) 971-3905

Vice President

Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, (301) 927-1797

Vice President

Tony Young, WA3YLO, (301) 262-1917

Treasurer

Charles Johnson, N3HFO, (301) 552-1251

Recording Secretary

Dan Blasberg, KA8YPY, (202) 667-5780

AUTO-CALL Magazine Staff...

Editor

John Queen, KAØSEY, (301) 855-0198

Circulation Manager

John Swafford, W4HU, (703) 536-9537

auto-call Copyright ©1999. Deadline for copy is the 1st day of each month prior to the month of publication. All contributions are welcomed, but the editor reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Permission is hereby granted to reprint from this publication provided credit is given. Auto-call is published monthly as the Official Journal of the Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. Comments made by columnists do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Foundation. No effort is made to investigate advertisers, therefore no warranty can be implied. Entered as third class non-profit matter at the Arlington, Virginia Post Office. Subscription rate is just \$8.00 per year.

Regional Hamfests and Other Events

-	March 6	Splitrock ARA, Parsippany, NJ	1-888-511-SARA
	March 6	Kerbela AR Service, Knoxville, TN	423-986-9562
	March 13	Irvington-Roseland ARC, West Orange, NJ	973-402-6066
	March 13-14	Roanoke Division Convention, Charlotte, NC	704-382-3234
	March 14	York Springfest 1999, York Co Vo-Tech Shcool, York, PA	717-697-2353
	March 21	Delaware Valley Radio Assn., Trenton, NJ	609-882-2240
	March 27-28	Greater Baltimore Hamboree, Timonium, MD	410-HAM-FEST
	April 10	Catawba Valley Hamfest & Computer Fair, Morganton, NC	828-433-6205
	April 11	Raleigh ARS, Raleigh, NC	919-266-7883
	April 17	Murray State University ARC, Murray, KY	502-762-6433
	April 18	MIT RS & Harvard Wireless Club, Cambridge, MA	617-253-3776
	April 18	Two Rivers ARC, Monroeville, PA	412-751-9657
	April 24	Cherryville Repeater Assn., Harmony Twp., NJ	908-454-4370
	April 24	Chesapeake AR Service, Chesapeake, VA	757-382-0193
	May 1	AARC Hamfest/Computerfest, Grasonville, MD	
	May 1	Nashville ARC, Nashville, TN	615-865-6225
	May 2	Antietam Radio Association, Hagerstown, MD	304-728-7769

NEXT FOUNDATION MEETING

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. meets at 8: p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. Visitors are always welcome! The next meeting will be held March 10th at the Lee Center, Alexandria, Virginia. Take Capitol Beltway to Exit 1 (US 1 North). North to the second traffic light, left on Gibbon Street to Fayette. Left on Fayette to dead end at Lee Center Parking Lot. The meeting is conducted in the conference room near the main office of the center.

Talk-in on 146.55

March 1999



Photo by Murray Green, K3BEQ

On The Cover

N3JBX, Bill Pimble, shown here operating mobile through the 146.61 Cheverly repeater. Bill is a Field Operations Supervisor with a major media network. Bill recently returned from an assignment in Moscow, Russia.



American Radio Relay League Report

By John Swafford, W4HU

The purpose of The ARRL Letter is to provide essential news of interest to active amateurs promptly and efficiently, and in advance of publication in our official journal, QST. The ARRL Letter strives to be fast, accurate, concise, and readable. Material from The ARRL Letter may be reproduced in whole or in part in any form, including photo reproduction and electronic databases. Credit must be given to The ARRL Letter and The American Radio Relay League.

HAMS RESPOND AS KILLER TORNADOES RAKE SOUTH

Hams in Tennessee and Arkansas responded as unusual tornadoes threatened, then struck, this week. The death toll from the freak storms stood at 16 as of January 22, and losses were expected to top \$1 billion. A call went out January 22 for additional ham radio volunteers to assist operations in Tennessee in the storms' wake.

Tornadoes in the Jackson, Tennessee, area January 17 killed eight people. Another eight died when tornadoes struck in the vicinity of Little Rock and White County, Arkansas, January 21. The National Weather Service called it "an unprecedented outbreak of tornadoes for January."

Arkansas Section Manager Roger Gray, N5QS in Searcy, reports he was up all night and observed four or five funnel clouds, but he estimated that at least 30 tornadoes swept through the area. Gray has been actively managing the ARES operation.

"We have had an incredible response from the amateur community," he said. He estimated that up to 60 hams were active on VHF and HF nets. "We have been running nets almost continuously since 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon and no end in sight," he added.

One problem, he said, was that access to the badly-damaged town of Beebewas extremely restricted "and contacting people in that area is extremely restricted "and contacting people in that area is extremely difficult right now." In addition to health-and-welfare and damage assessment traffic, he said Amateur Radio was filling the gap as long-distance telephone circuits have become overloaded. "That's why we're handling as much traffic as we are." Damage was primarily confined to four areas, and he expected ham radio involvement to conclude within 24 hours.

Gray said five weather-spotting net control stations were active. The EC in charge, James Wiles, KK5WM, in Beebe, suffered damage to his house and had to move operations to a Red Cross shelter, Gray reported. Hams are expected to become involved in damage assessment.

The National Weather Service confirmed that "between two and three dozen" tornadoes damaged or destroyed homes and businesses in Little Rock, Beebe, Searcy, and in other locations to the North and east. Large hail also was reported, including "baseball to grapefruit size hail near Hot Springs and around the Little Rock and Conway areas," the NWS said.

"Another wild night in Arkansas," said ARRL Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in Judsonia, who reported "lots of damage" in his area. "I have to tell you, in my 41 years of living here, I have never seen storms like we had last night," he said. Harrison said the first line came through around 5 PM, "then another, and another, and another for what seemed like every half hour tell about 10:30 PM."

Continued on page 7

The Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.



MEMBER CLUBS

Adams County Amateur Radio Society

Alexandria Radio Club

Amateur Radio Research and Develop. Corp.

AMSAT - Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation

Anne Arundel Radio Club

Antietam Radio Association, Inc.

ARINC Amateur Radio Club

Arlington Amateur Radio Club

Baltimore Amateur Radio Club

Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society

Calvert Amateur Radio Association

Capital City Amateur Radio Society

Capitol Hill Amateur Radio Society

Carroll County Amateur Radio Club

Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club

Charles County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Chaverim of the Greater Washington Area

Cheese Hollow Amateur Radio Society

Columbia Amateur Radio Association

D-MARC - Digital Mid-Atlantic Radio Council

Department of State Amateur Radio Club

Dulles Amateur Radio Group

Explorer Post #80- Amateur Radio

Fauquier Amateur Radio Association

Federal City REACT Amateur Radio Club

Frederick Amateur Radio Club

Frederick Amateur Repeater Group

Goddard Amateur Radio Club

Green Mountain Repeater Association

Hanover Area Hamming Association

Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club

IBM Amateur Radio Club

Johns Hopkins University APL ARC

KB3BOI Repeater Group, Inc.

Kent Island Amateur Radio Club

Laurel Amateur Radio Club

Leisure World Amateur Radio Club

Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

MD/DC MARS (Navy Marine) Association

MADRAS

Maryland Emergency Phone Net

Maryland FM Association

Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club

Mercury Amateur Radio Assn., NE Area

Metropolitan Communications Network

Metrovision Amateur TV Club

Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Assn.

Montgomery Amateur Radio Club

Montgomery Auxiliary Communications Service

Moose Amateur Radio Club

Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

National Capitol ARES Council

National Capitol DX Association

Naval Research Laboratory Radio Club

NOAA Amateur Radio Club

Northern Virginia FM Association

Northern Virginia Radio Club

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club

Opequon Radio Society

Pentagon Amateur Radio Club

Potomac Area VHF Society

Potomac Valley Radio Club

Prince George's Wireless Association, Inc.

Prince George's County ARES/RACES

Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc.

Baltimore Chapter #20

Del-Mar-VA Chapter #150

Shenandoah Valley Chapter #137

Vic Clark Chapter #91

Washington Chapter #23

Rock Creek Amateur Radio Association

St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association

Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club

Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club

Southern Patuxent Amateur Radio Club

Stafford Amateur Radio Assn.

Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club

Summit Amateur Radio Association

Tri-County Amateur Radio Club

T-MARC, Middle Atlantic Repeater Council

Vienna Wireless Society

Voice of America Amateur Radio Club

Washington Adventist Amateur Radio Assn.

Washington Area Young Ladies ARC

Woodbridge Wireless, Inc.

The damage in a 10 mile radius around my home is horrible!" Harrison said. Arkansas State University in Beebe—where his son, Mark, attends school—had extensive damage. "There is considerable damage in Little Rock, even to the Governor's Mansion," he added.

Mark Harrison, KC5YNE, said most of the town of Beebe was damaged or destroyed, and eight tornadoes hit White County alone. He reports the family spent an anxious night. "It was a relief when the storms finally quit, and everything was fine here," he said.

Meanwhile, Delta Division Vice Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, in Memphis, Tennessee, reports considerable ham radio activity in the Jackson area, where tornadoes hit last weekend, as well as in Clarksville, where twisters struck early on the morning of January 21. "The VolNet has played an important part here," he said. The VolNet is a 2-meter net interfaced via a 440-MHz link and providing coverage from Oxford, Mississippi, to the Memphis area and beyond. Leggette said he planned to visit the Jackson area over the weekend to assist.

Tennessee SEC Jim Jarvis, WD4JJ, in Bristol, relayed a request for amateurs with mobile units to assist at the Clarksville/Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center. Hams willing to volunteer may contact the EOC directly on the 147.39 MHz repeater, he said. "The police department and city hall have been completely demolished, and the downtown area is a complete wreck." Jarvis also reports damage to Humphreys County, as well as in McEwen, Waverly, and Camden counties. He estimated that up toe three dozen hams active in providing emergency communication in the Clarksville/Montgomery County area.

Hams also were reported active at Ft Campbell, Kentucky, with Albert Furlow, KA1FFO, in Clarksville said to be at the helm.

In the aftermath of the earlier storms, Jarvis reports that EC Kenny Johns, AB4EG, in Jackson

was rounding up volunteers to assist the Red Cross with damage assessment in the seven counties hit last weekend. Among those reported to be active were members of John's club, the West Tennessee Amateur Radio Society. Johns said a SKYWARN net was activated last Sunday afternoon, but the tornadoes were unexpected. Two ham weather spotters saw the twisters—illuminated by the lightning—and took shelter. After the storms struck, more than two dozen ARES members handled health-and-welfare traffic at the EOC for 22 hours. During that time, the EOC repeater was knocked off the air, but amateur repeaters, including one at the EOC remained up, making Amateur Radio the primary backup for the EOC.

Hams were on alert for additional severe weather prior to the January 21 storms that struck Tennessee and Arkansas. Jarvis says SKYWARN nets remain on the alert for additional severe weather this weekend in the Tennessee-Arkansas-Louisiana region.

BOARD EMBRACES NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR AMATEUR RADIO'S FUTURE

The ARRL Board of Directors has adopted an initiative proposed by President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, to promote new technology in Amateur Radio. Meeting in Houston, Texas, January 15 and 16, the Board adopted Stafford's proposal to establish an Amateur Radio Technology Task Force to develop a strategy and plan for exploring new technologies and assessing their applicability and possible incorporation into Amateur Radio.

Northwestern Division Director Grey Milnes, W7AGQ, opened the Board's first 1999 session with a tribute to former Director Mary Lou Brown, NM7N, who died last December 3. The Board also observed a moment of silence in her memory.

In his meeting report, Stafford expressed his concerns about dwindling amateur activity in general and a decline in ARRL membership in particular. "In my humble opinion, it seems that

the average ham radio operator is not very excited about anything in Amateur Radio these days," he said. The Board went along with Stafford's suggestion that an infusion of newer technologies into the hobby might renew enthusiasm.

Stafford will appoint members to the Technology Task Force who have been actively in experimenting with or developing new technology. An initial report is due next January. In a collateral move, the Board reconstituted the Future Systems Committee as the Amateur Radio Technology Working Group to serve as a resource for the Technology Task Force. As an adjunct to the Technology Task Force, the Technology Working Group will conduct experiments, research and development involving newer technologies.

In other action, the Board declined—at least for now—to join the National Frequency Coordinators' Council in petitioning the FCC seeking rules requiring frequency coordination for fixed repeaters and auxiliary stations. A majority of the Board said there was no compelling evidence warranting a move beyond the existing rules. But the Board did invite the NFCC to revisit the issue at a later date.

"Coordinated repeaters already have a degree of priority," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, in explaining the Board's decision. Board members are keeping an open mind, but by and large, they are not yet persuaded of the necessity to go beyond that."

In a letter to Stafford following the meeting, NFCC President George Isely, W9GIG, expressed disappointment. "I think it's fair to say this is not a dead issue for the NFCC," he said, NFCC members had approved the filing of the petition by a wide margin.

In his report to the Board, Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, praised an apparent return to enforcement by the FCC. Harrison said the League has been pushing for better enforcement for some time, and that FCC action against willful violators

has been a historical and primary concern of the amateur community. Harrison summarized recent FCC actions as the Board applauded

In other matters, the ARRL Board:

- * Elected Directors Kay Craigie, WT3P, Frank Fallon, N2FF, Fred Heyn, WA6WZO, and Tod Olson, K0TO, to the Executive Committee for the 1999 term.
- * Awarded the International Humanitarian Award to Radio Amateur du Quebec Inc (RAQI) for its service to the citizens of Quebec during the devastating 1998 ice storm.
- *Following a study of the Y2K computer issue by its Volunteer Resources Committee, recommended that section managers, section emergency coordinators, and ARES groups enter into memoranda of understanding and conduct drills, with public utilities and public safety agencies for emergency communications necessitated by possible Y2K problems.
- *Authorized ARRL votes to ratify the elections of ARRL and IARU leader Larry E. Price, W4RA, as IARU President, and David A. Wardlaw, VK3ADW, as IARU Vice President for the 1999-2004 term.
- * Elected Eugene Hastings, W1VRK, and ARRL Directors John Kanode, N4MM, and Gray Milnes, W7AGQ, to three-year terms as directors of the ARRL Foundation.
- * Responded to an offer by the Boring (Oregon) Amateur Radio Club—the founding sponsor of Kid's Day—and agreed to have the ARRL assume sponsorship of this operating event that introduces Amateur Radio to hundreds of kids in a creative format (See January 1999 QST, pg 46).
- * Following the recommendations of its Administration and Finance Committee, approved operating and capital spending plans for 1999.

* Amended the Bylaws to permit international membership without receipt of QST. To receive QST each month, international members must pay for additional postage. Instead, International members may now opt to pay the regular dues rate and to receive the annual ARRL periodicals CD-ROM, including QST, QEX, and NCJ, along with other membership benefits such as access to the Members Only Web Site and reduced DXCC fees.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO PONDER LEAGUE NAME CHANGE

Could the American Radio Relay League enter the new millennium with a new name? The ARRL Board of Directors has asked the League's Executive Committee to develop a proposal to change the League's name to one that more clearly reflects the focus and purpose of the organization to hams and nonhams alike. The Board charged the Executive Committee to develop a name change proposal for consideration by the Board at its July meeting.

The name-change idea is not a new one. A previous proposal was considered by the Board several years ago, but it was set aside.

The now-obscure "Relay" part of the League's name often is the most troublesome to explain nowadays. It refers to the earlier practice, fostered by the League, of relaying long-distance message traffic from station to station in a time when direct contact was not always feasible. The Board's resolution said the League's current name no longer adequately reflects "the breadth of amateur radio" and that the ARRL needs a name that would "clearly reflect our focus and purpose—Amateur Radio—to those both inside and outside our organization."

The Board said the year 2000 would be "a natural point for change." Members who learned of the resolution this week discussed the issue on various Internet reflectors.

Earlier this decade, the ARRL Board declined a suggestion from the Long Range Planning

Committee to change the League's name to the American Amateur Radio League—ironically the name first suggested by ARRL founder Hiram Percy Maxim in 1914. The November 1992 issue of QST broached the subject to the League's members and encouraged them to express their opinions. Directors overwhelmingly—but not unanimously—abandoned the name-change campaign at the Board's January 1993 meeting.

FCC ISSUES 5-MHZ EXPERIMENTAL LICENSE TO ARRL

The FCC has issued an Experimental Radio Service license to the ARRL to permit two-way tests in the vicinity of 5 MHz, the most likely site of the next amateur HF band. The license, bearing the call sign WA2XSY, was issued January 8. A group of 15 current amateurs in various parts of the US and the Caribbean will conduct experimental, two-way RTTY and SSB transmissions within the band 5.100 to 5.450 MHz. To avoid interfering with existing services, the participants will confine their operations to the least-populated 50-kHz segment

The idea is to show that an amateur allocation there will improve our emergency communication capabilities by filling the gap between the 3.5 and 7.0 MHz bands," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. Sumner pointed out that several of the participants are phone net members in the Caribbean and Gulf area who frequently handle hurricane-related traffic and now must alternate between 75 meters and 40 meters. Other participants are members of a nationwide digital data-forwarding network.

The Experimental license is good for two years. Two studies by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) include an allocation at 5 MHz among the future spectrum needs for the Amateur Service. The subject is not likely to show up on the agenda of a World Radiocommunication Conference for several years,

however.

Participants in the WA2XSY experiment may run up to 200 W effective radiated power. Similar multiband trap dipoles capable of operation on 80 and 40 meters as well as at 5 MHz will be employed at each station location. Operation by participants will consist of short transmissions to determine propagation characteristics.

Participating stations are located in New Hampshire, Tennessee, Ohio, Florida, Mississippi, Wisconsin, Indiana, California, Utah, New York, Texas, the US Virgin Islands, and Maryland.

LEAGUE FILES "RESTRUCTURING" REPLY COMMENTS

The ARRL has suggested that its plan to restructure Amateur Radio licensing represents the best compromise among the many that have been put forth. In reply comments filed January 15 with the FCC, the League held firm to its restructuring proposals that would reduce the number of license classes from six to four by eliminating the Novice and Tech Plus tickets, provide 5 WPM and 12 WPM Morse code testing tiers; and permit Technician operators to use Morse code on the current General class CW bands.

The League's plan also would refarm the Novice/Tech Plus CW allocations among the remaining license classes and revise both written and Morse examination requirements to make them more relevant and more comprehensive in general, the League's reply comments reiterated its initial comments filed last December 1 in the proceeding, WT Docket 98-143 which the FCC refers to as its 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 97

The FCC received around 2000 comments—mostly from individual amateurs—in response to its Notice of Proposed Rule Making last August. "The number of comments filed by radio amateur licensees and amateur groups is impressive and heartening," the League said. "The comments reveal that the Amateur Service is active, vital"

and shows that hams are willing to participate in their own regulatory affairs. "To a greater extent than in other services, the Commission should heed the suggestions and advice of its licensees, "the ARRL advised.

Most of the comments focused on the number of license classes, Morse code requirements, and HF subband allocations. But, the League said, there was no real consensus in terms of an overall approach the FCC should take.

Amateur Radio iconoclast Wayne Green, W2NSD, publisher of 73 magazine, suggested one license class. A number of commenters suggested three, CQ Communications suggested three plus a Basic Amateur Permit—a kind of learner's permit. Others wanted four or even five. The ARRL said four licenses classes provided a manageable gap between licenses classes to encourage upgrading. "Looking at the matter this way, four license classes is a good plan, and three classes is not," the League said. Under the League's plan, current Novice and Tech Plus licensees would be automatically upgraded to General.

Comments on Morse test ranged from eliminating the code requirement altogether to keeping the present system. The ARRL held to its proposed two-tier Morse code examination regime, with a 5 WPM test for General class and a 12 WPM test for Advanced and Extra. "It would appear that the majority of the comments agree that there is currently an overemphasis on telegraphy as an examination requirement," the League said. At the same time, the ARRL said that Morse is still relevant to ham radio and should continue as a requirement. The League also cited support for its plan to let Technician licensees operate Morse code in the General CW bands without prior testing. The proposal "received no significant opposition in the comments," the League noted, although some did question whether the League's proposal was consistent with international regulations.

The League found an ally in CQ

Continued next page

Communications comments on refarming the Novice/Tech Plus CW allocations among the remaining classes for additional phone bands. CQ called it "the correct approach, as it its proposal to grandfather existing Novices into the General class.

Noting the present slowdown in Amateur Radio growth, the League also urged the Commission to "not leave the Amateur Service in limbo" on the matter of restructuring but to act promptly. The pending restructuring "has a dampening effect on the inclination of newcomers to proceed with amateur licensing and on existing licensees to upgrade" the League asserted. The ARRL predicted that simplifying the licensing structure will help to boost growth in the hobby.

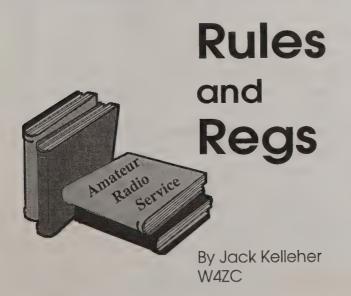
"The League's comprehensive proposal provides the best means of accommodating the diverse views of the parties filing comments in this proceeding," the ARRL concluded.

IN BRIEF

* New Canadian prefix: The territory of Nunavut comes into existence April 1, 1999, and with it a new Amateur Radio prefix. Radio Amateurs of Canada has announced that Nunavut will get the prefix VYO "to ensure a unique identification for the new territory." However,

there are no plans to add the new territory to the list of ARRL November Sweepstakes multipliers. Nunavut, which means "our land" in the Inuktitut language will be comprised of the eastern portion of the present Northwest Territories. The new territory will be about five times the size of Alberta but has a population of just 24,000, some 85% of whom are Inuit. The VE8 prefix will remain in use of the western Northwest Territories, which may get a new name as a result of the partitioning.

* Joe Walsh, rock star/Collins collector: A West Virginia ham recently cut a deal to sell his refurbished vintage Collins KWS-1 transmitter and 75A-4 receiver to singer-song writer Joe Walsh, WB6ACU. Mark Danehart, W8MSD, of Mt Olivet, West Virginia, decided to sell the pair recently, and he was surprised when Walsh was the lone caller responding to his ad. Danehart made arrangements to ship the heavy metal units to Walsh, who was wrapping up a concert tour. An ARRL Life Member, Walsh, has enjoyed a career with the Eagles and as a solo artist. He's belonged to the League for 27 years now. In addition to a check for the Collins gear, he sent Danehart an autographed picture as well as two autographed CDs. Walsh's road manager also promised Danehart front row seats to Walsh's next concert in the Ohio Valley. Danehart's story of the Collins sale appeared December 9, 1998 in The Wheeling Intelligencer.



The *Rules and Regs* column which normally appears in *Auto Call* is noticably absent this month. Jack Kelleher's computer went on an unplanned vacation and brought back a bad hard drive as a souvenier. Jack's column will be back in *Auto Call* next month.



DX OPERATING PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

Now that the higher frequency HF bands are back with lots of DX to be worked and lots of new amateurs, maybe it is time to review proper DX operating procedures and accepted guidelines. There are four basic ways to work DX. The best is the Split-Frequency Operation, the second way is Transceive, the third is DX Networks and the fourth is List Operation.

Split-frequency operation is, by far, the best method to use. It results in less confusion, interference and frustration than other procedures. In split frequency operation, the DX station transmits on one frequency and receives on another.

This method gives the highest QSO rate, allowing more amateurs to contact the OX station. Anyone considering going on a DXpedition should plan to take proper equipment along so that split-frequency operation can be used. It is recommended that a DX station operating phone select a frequency in the lower part of the phone segment and "listen up" (listen higher in frequency) for US stations and "listen down" (listen lower in frequency) for other stations.

Example: The DX station operating phone transmits on 14.195 MHz and listens for US stations from 14.200 to 14.210 MHz and listens for others for others from 14.190 to 14.180 MHz. On CW, the DX station should transmit somewhere in the lower part of the CW band segment and listen up.

Example: Transmit on 14.020 MHz and listen from 14.025 to 14.035 MHz. The DX station should announce often where they are listening and what areas they are listening for.

No more bandwidth should be specified than the absolute minimum that permits separation of the calling stations. Unless the DX station is operating from some very rare location, large listening segments are not necessary and cause interference to other stations using the band.

One of the big problems when working split-frequency is that some of the calling stations do not take the time to make sure that they are calling on the right frequency and end up calling on top of the DX station. This causes much frustration and stations who are trying to work the DX are not sure who he/she had a QSO with. Before you start calling the DX, take the time to make sure your equipment is set up correctly so that you do not cause interference to the DX station. First of all, learn how to operate your equipment properly. Do not be a victim of WVS, Wrong VFO Syndrome.

Next month, I will cover proper transceive DX operating.

UPCOMING DX CONTESTS

ARRL International DX Contest, Phone March 6-7, 1999 RSGB Commonwealth CW Contest March 13-14, 1999 Bermuda Contest March 20-21, 1999 BARTG Spring RTTY Contest March 20-22, 1999 CQ WW WPX SSB Contest March 27-28, 1999

The Venezuela DX Club and the Association de Radio Aficionados de Venezuela are working on joint DXpedition to Aves Island in the year 2000.

DX DX, from previous poge

More info will be forthcoming.

Tom, N4XP will be operating from the Marshall Islands (V7) in late February and early March. He will put emphasis on 40, 80 and 160 meters. QSLs go to N4XP.

The callsign Z57B is being used from a ship which is placing buoys between the Antarctic coast and the South Sandwich Islands. QSO's with Z578 are not valid for DXCC credits.

Canada will have a new territory with a new prefix as of April 1, 1999. The new territory, called Nunavut, makes up all of the eastern Arctic area. The new prefix will be VY0. It has been reported that this will not be a new or ARRL 55 and other ARRL contests.

A station using the call, ZAIRSB in December was a bootleg operation. G4UZN was given as the QSL manager and he knows nothing about this operation.

The ZL9CI Dxpedition has come to a close.

From all reports, they did a fantastic job. I heard them on all bands except 160 and 6 meters. It has been reported that they had over 90,000 QSOs. If this is confirmed, it would be a new record. I am sure they will have a first rate slide/video presentation ready for Dayton and the International DX Convention in Fresno.

The DXpedition that was scheduled to go to St. Peter and St. Paul Rocks has been cancelled due to financial considerations. P57KM advised that all donations will be returned to the sponsors as soon as possible.

There is an excellent article on DXCC-2000 in the February 1999 issue of QST. It was written by Wayne Mills, N7NG. All DXers should take the time to read this article on page 78. At the recent ARRL Board meeting, Wayne was reappointed as chairman of the DXAC. John, N4MM was appointed as the Board DXAC Liaison.

There will be a DX forum at the Roanoke Division ARRL Convention in Charlotte, NC on March 13 and 14. Participants will be K4MQG, N7NG, N4MM and NlND. The new DXCC-2000 program will be discussed.

SPRINGFEST OUTDOOR AMATEUR RADIO TAILGATE HAMFEST

April 24, 1999, Chesapeake, Virginia. Annual Springfest, Outdoor Amateur Radio Tailgate Hamfest and get together, sponsored by Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service. Located at the OLD GERTIE SCHOOL HOUSE - Ballahack Road & Bunch Walnuts Road, in southern Chesapeake, between Route 17 and Route 168.

Admission and Tailgate space for the same price, \$5.00. Tailgate setup is between 5:30 AM and 7:30 AM. General Admission at 8:00 AM, last Door Price Drawing to be at 12:00 Noon. Talk-in on 146.610-600 WA4YSE repeater or 146.970-600 WA4KXV repeater. No electricity or tables bring your own.

Additional Information or advance tickets contact Jim, KF4RQQ or via mail to CARS, P.O. Box 2035, Chesapeake, Virginia 23324. Listed by K4WYS (emailwrhood@exis.net)



Amateur Radio Training

John Forrest WZ4A 6111 Burnett St., Alexandria, VA 22310 (703)971-3905

Please send announcements for training classes and club training contacts to WZ4A at the above address. Deadline is the 25th of the 2nd month prior to the *Auto Call* publication date (e.g., 25 December for the February issue).

Club Training Contacts

Alexandria RC	Rich Adamy KA4GFY	(703) 644-3920
Anne Arundel RC	Tony Young WA3YLO	(301) 262-1917
Arlington ARC	Mike Callaham NW3V	(703) 241-5618
Antietam Radio Assn.	Robert Long KD3JK	(301) 824-5132
BRATS (Baltimore)	Joe Chidester W3SHZ	(410) 602-0353
Baltimore ARC	HAM-TALK, BARC Voice Mail	(410) HAM-TALK x3835
Central MD ARC	Jim Tilton KD3JA	(301) 552-0012
Dulles ARG	Michael Weber WB8RDN	(703) 450-2304
Fauquier ARA	Neil Spokes AB4YK	(540) 364-3861
Frederick ARC	Hal Silverman W3HWC	(301) 831-7946
Historical Electronics ARC	Rol Anders K3RA	(410) 796-4792
Laurel ARC	Pud Reaver W3YD	(301) 498-6293
Mid-Atlantic DX Assn.	Michael Vaia, WB8VBW	(301) 738-3861
Madras	Larry Ziecheck, N3GKZ	(301) 984-6113
MD Mobileers ARC	Bruce Colburn AA3KR	(410) 437-1891
Montgomery ARC	Rocky Jones KC4UXO	(301) 216-5210
Mt. Vernon ARC	John Forrest WZ4A	(703) 971-3905
NASA/Goddard ARC	Vikki Gigante KA3PVS	(301) 249-2609
Ole VA Hams ARC	Charles Dale WA4YGI	(703) 361-3091
Pentagon ARC	David Boyd K9MX	(540) 659-6241
St. Marys Co. ARC	Peter Butt WA3UMY	(301) 862-2214
Shenandoah Val ARC	Fred Wetzel W4KRT	(540) 678-0394
Southern MD ARC	Vic Curtis WA3YUV	(301) 888-1388
Southern Pax ARC	Dwayne Kincaid WD8OYG	(410) 586-2177
Stafford Adult Ed	Jerry Mullinix AC4HK	(540) 659-3905
Sterling Park ARC	Forrest Snyder N4UTY	(703) 430-4149
Tri-County ARC	John Creel WB3GXW	(301) 572-5124
Vienna Wireless	Kerry Kingham, WA4BQM	(703) 691-2719
Woodbridge Wireless	Jim Duffey WD4AIR	(703) 491-3170

The Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.





Volunteer Examiner Cooperative

JOHN FORREST WZ4A 6111 Burnett St. Alexandria, VA, 22310 (703) 971-3905

- * Volunteer Examiners may refuse to test any applicant who fails to demonstrate to the VE's satisfaction that the memories in the applicant's calculator are empty. If you bring a calculator to an exam, please be prepared to demonstrate that your memories are empty.
- * Effective January 1, 1999, the maximum FCC authorized exam fee is \$6.49.

1999 Schedule of Examinations

March 4 (Thursday)

Martinsburg, WV - Mid-Atlantic DX and Rptr Soc. and Winchester ARS (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Preferred, Limited Walk-In. Contact: Greg Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792 kuan@visuallink.com Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117 arm@visuallink.com

March 7 (Sunday)

Landover, MD - DCMARC (ARRL VEC) Walk-In Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 Day (301)773-2898 Night

March 13 (Saturday) Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: John Forrest WZ4A (703)971-3905, Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510

Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In. Contact: Oscar Ramsey NV3G (301)262-3392

March 14 (Sunday)

March 1999

Middletown, VA - Winchester ARS (ARRL VEC)

Pre-Registration Preferred, Limited Walk-In Contact: Greg Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792 kuan@visuallink.com Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117 arm@visuallink.com

March 20 (Sunday)

Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC)
Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In
Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM

April 1 (Thursday)

Martinsburg, WV - Mid-Atlantic DX and Rptr Soc. and Winchester ARS (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Preferred, Limited Walk-In. Contact: Greg Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792 kuan@visuallink.com Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117 arm@visuallink.com.

April 4 (Sunday)

Landover, MD - DCMARC (W5YI VEC) Walk-In Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 Day (301)773-2898 Night

April 10 (Saturday)

Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In. New Location This Month Only - Call for Directions. Contact: John Forrest WZ4A (703)971-3905 Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510

Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In. Contact: Oscar Ramsey NV3G (301)262-3392

Cumberland, MD - (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674

April 11 (Sunday)

Middletown, VA - Winchester ARS (ARRL VEC)
Pre-Registration Preferred, Limited Walk-In. Contact: Greg Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792 kuan@visuallink.com Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117 arm@visuallink.com

April 17 (Saturday)

Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC)
Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In
Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM

Fredericksburg, VA - Fredericksburg VE Team (ARRL VEC)
Walk-In
Contact: Carolyn Cavanagh AC4SK (540)373-0572

Don't forget to bring your license when upgrading!!

April 25 (Sunday)

Hagerstown, MD - Antietam Radio Assn. (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In. Contact: George Carpenter N3QFS (301)842-3130 Bob Long KD3JK (301)824-5132

May 2 (Sunday)

Landover, MD - DCMARC (ARRL VEC) Walk-In Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 Day (301)773-2898 Night

May 8 (Saturday) Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: John Forrest WZ4A (703)971-3905, Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510

Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Oscar Ramsey NV3G (301)262-3392

May 15 (Saturday)

Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC)
Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In
Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM

May 26 (Wed.)

Winchester, VA - Shenandoah Valley ARC (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Preferred, Limited Walk-In Contact: Fred Wetzel W4KR (540)678-0394 Greg Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792 kuan@visuallink.com Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117 arm@visuallink.com

June 3 (Thursday) Martinsburg, WV - Mid-Atlantic DX and Rptr Soc. and Winchester ARS (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Preferred, Limited Walk-In. Contact: Greg Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792 kuan@visuallink.com Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117 arm@visuallink.com

June 6 (Sunday)

Landover, MD - DCMARC (W5YI VEC) Walk-In Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 Day (301)773-2898 Night

Don't forget to bring your license when upgrading!!

June 12 (Saturday) Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: John Forrest WZ4A (703)971-3905. Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510

Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Oscar Ramsey NV3G (301)262-3392

Cumberland, MD - (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Gay Rembold W3DFW. (301)724-0674

June 13 (Sunday)

Middletown, VA - Winchester ARS (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Preferred, Limited Walk-In. Contact: Greg Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792 kuan@visuallink.com Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117 arm@visuallink.com

June 19 (Saturday)

Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC)
Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In
Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM

TRAINING CLASSES

GENERAL CLASS UPGRADE COURSE: The Montgomery Amateur Radio Club will present an upgrade course for the General Class license beginning March 4, 1999. Both theory and Morse code (from 5 wpm to 13 wpm) will be offered. The course will be held at Gaithersburg High School in Gaithersburg, MD. Classes will be held each Thursday from 7 pm until 9 pm beginning on March 4 and ending on March 25. Exams will be held on Wednesday, March 31. There is no charge for the course. However, you must provide your own study manual. "The ARRL General Class License Manual" will be used. For more information about the class you may call Rocky KC4UXO at 301-216-5210 or Peggy N3PPG at 301-330-0027.

GENERAL CLASS COURSE: The Laurel Amateur Radio Club will conduct a general class licensing course beginning February 1, 1999 at 7 pm at the Woman's Club of Laurel, 384 Main Street, Laurel, MD 20707. For information please call Pud Reaver/W3YD at 301-498-6293.

Don't forget to bring your license when upgrading!!



Volunteer Examiner Cooperative

EXAM FEES:

- * Check for appropriate exam fee. Fees and modes of payment for individual VECs and exam teams may vary.
- * ARRL VEC exams cost \$6.45
- * Laurel VEC exams are free
- * W5YI VEC exams cost \$6.45

BRING TO EXAM:

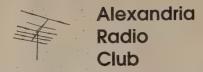
- * Picture identification
- * Completed FCC form 610 (most VE teams will supply at exam)
- * Original and a copy of current FCC amateur radio license
- * Originals and copies of all active certificates of successful completion of prior exams
- * Exam fee (check or cash depending on VE team)

"GRANDFATHER" CREDIT FOR ELEMENT 3B (GENERAL WRITTEN):

* If you presently hold a Technician class license which was first issued prior to March 21, 1987, you may be grandfathered for Element 3B (General class written exam) by presenting the original and a copy of the license dated prior to March 21, 1987 to the VE team. It is your responsibility to prove that you are entitled to grandfathering. Do not lose your original license!

RULES FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE FAR VOLUNTEER EXAMINER COOPERATIVE:

- 1. All submissions must be in writing
- 2. Date and day of week must be specified for each exam date
- 3. Point of contact and phone number must be specified
- 4. Sponsor and location must be specified
- 5. VEC must be specified
- 6. Exam dates up to 12 months in advance will be accepted
- 7. Deadline for submission is 25th of the 2nd month prior to publication date (e.g., January 25 for March issue)



Meetings: Second Friday of each month, 7:30 PM at the Alexandria Fire Department Administrative Office (co-located with Fire Station #54), 900 Second St., Alexandria, VA Nets: Every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. on 147.315 output / 147.915 input. (W4HFH repeater) Web page: http://members.aol.com/N4CWP/W4HFH.HTML (or search on Yahoo: W4HFH or Alexandria Radio Club).

Information: Rich-KA4GFY, 703-644-3920.

The January meeting attendance was limited by the ice. Many members did not make the meeting due to the bad weather. We did HOWEVER have a meeting and Mr. Martin did provide a very fine program on power line interference hunting and correction. Many who did not make the meeting have asked that we bring Mr. Martin back later on in the year. We will make the invitation for some time in the summer when ice won't be a factor.

Our February program was Mr. Ed Harris, KE4SKY, who gave a great program on ARES portable equipment, go kits, and the joys of simplex VHF.

The March meeting will be our last meeting at Fire Station 204 (or 54 or 4?) for a while as the fire department is razing the roof. Come to the March meeting and find out where the April meeting is going to be held. When your Auto Call article author knows, we will pass the news to you. Or check into the weekly club net on 147.315 or 444.6 (PL 107.2) or 222.82 (PL 107.2) for more up to date information.

The club has an expanding population on 6 meter FM. Jim WA4CCF and Tommy, WA4RBE's should have the 6 meter repeater 53.13 (PL 107.2) up shortly. Many members can be found on 6 meters.

Rich KA4GFY recently completed his second Ten-Tec kit. This time he's added 220 MHz capability to his shack. Look for this rear DX on 220 in the near future. Activity on this band is increasing (not due to sunspots!)

Some club members worked the Washington's Birthday parade. NCAC provided leadership and did a fine job. The St. Patrick's Day parade is on March 6th and we are looking for more volunteers to work the parade. If you're interested please call Karen Bunn (NO CALL) at (703) 317-9305.

Spring is just a few cold days away and with it some weekends to do a little transmitter hunting. So, now is the time to work on all those projects that lead you to the hidden transmitter. The first transmitter hunt will be on the 20th starting at 1300. (1 PM for all you non-military types). At 1230 on 147.315 repeater information and rules will be announced. The club will award a prize for the first one to find our hidden transmitter!

73 Rick, N4ASX



Anne Arundel Radio Club

Meetings: 8 PM 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Davidsonville Family Recreation Center, Queen Anne Bridge & Wayson Roads off MD Rt. 214 near Annapolis.

On the air: 2030 Thursdays when there is no club meeting on 147.705/105. Tuesdays at 2030 local time on 28.410. Wednesdays at 2000 on 444.400. The Chesapeake Weather & Traffic Net on 147.705/105 at 1100 and 1500 every weekend day and public holiday from April 1 to November 15. MSN (Maryland Slow Net) every evening at 1930 on 3.7170 MHz.

Address: P.O. Box 308, Davidsonville, MD 21035.

Information: Margaret (Holly) Bevan, 410-923-0229.

The Club's 1999 Awards Dinner was held on January 22nd at Fergie's on Rt. 2 at the South River. Five plaques were presented to outgoing officers. Thirty-five members received Certificates of Appreciation for their contributions to various programs or activities. Tony Young/WA3YLO was given the 1998 President's Award for outstanding overall services to AARC. Bob Israel/WC3I received a Certificate of Life Membership. Bob will be moving to Arizona in March. It will take two or three persons to fill his shoes. He will be greatly missed.

With great sadness we report that three of our members have become silent keys. We received word that Ron Richard/N3FXI was accidentally drowned on December 24th. Ron and Ruth/N3FXH were in Beaufort, NC on their boat enroute to Florida when the tragedy occurred. A celebration of his life was held on February 13th at the Liberty Yacht Club on the South River. Ron and Ruth were one of five couples who attended the 1996 Novice Class.

Retired Air Force Col. George Boring/W3KS, 78, of Annapolis died January 24th of heart failure in the Anne Arundel Medical Center. Born in Florence, AZ, George attended college in Arizona for two years and took additional work at MIT and Harvard U. He attended the Army War College and was awarded the Legion of Merit in 1957. He retired from the Air Force in 1966 after 24 years of service. He then worked as an electronics engineer for ARINC for 20 years, retiring in 1986. He was an amateur radio operator for more than 60 years. He served for a time as president of the International Association of Airline Hams. He had been a member of AARC since 1986. He is survived by his wife Anne, two sons, three daughters and eight grandchildren. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Stewart Abbott Evans, 87, of Annapolis died of heart failure on January 24th at his home. Stew was born in Baltimore and graduated in 1929 from Annapolis High School. In 1941 he received a diploma in structural drawing from the Maryland

Institute. He worked for the former Naval Engineering Experimental Station from 1934 to 1961. He also worked in the early development of rocket engines. After retiring, he worked from 1961 to 1972 for Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning. Mr. Evans was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church and Annapolis Elks Lodge 622. He was a former member of the Annapolis Stamp Club and of the Anna Arundel Radio Club from 1982 through 1996. Stew's wife Eva died in 1985. He is survived by one son, one daughter, one sister, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

At the clubhouse on January 9th, Coordinator Oscar Ramsey/NV3G, Harold (Ham) Molz/N3FDH, Robert Kammer/N3POX and Mike Bevan/WA3NAK gave 11 tests to five persons. Five tests were passed with three upgrades. Other members of the team included Harlan Ray,III/AA3FE, Herb Elkin/NA1VY and Holly Bevan/N3MB> The next testing session at the clubhouse will be on March 13th.

73, Holly/N3MB



Antietam Radio Association

Meetings: First and Third Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Washington County Regional Airport, Showalter Road, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 52, Hagerstown, MD. 21741

Nets: Tuesday 7 p.m. 146.940 MHz.; Wednesday 7 p.m. 447.975 MHz.; Thursday 7 p.m. 147.090 MHz.

Repeaters: 147.09+ and 146.94 -.

Information: Donnie Sue Mulligan/

KB3AOO (301) 582-2984

On Saturday, November 21, 1998, the ARA communicated for the 36th annual John F. Kennedy ultramarathon. There were nearly 900 runners on the 50 miles starting at Boonsboro School and

ending at Williamsport School. There were several that dropped out of the race but all of the runners remembered JFK and the year he was assassinated 3 5 years ago.

Thanks to Gary Swales/K3CWC, the coordinator and net control of the event (except for an hour Charlie Mulligan/N3MVR took over net control), to all the ARA members that communicated, and especially to Stan Klick/W3YGC and his son who were right there with the last one until dark.

This is one of ARA's biggest events and one we look forward to every year.

Friday evening, December 11, 1998, the ARA and the Valley Amateur Television Society had a Christmas Banquet at Richardson's Restaurant. The VATS sponsored John Jarninet/W3HMS who gave a speech and showed us a video of his travels. It was an interesting evening with loads of food and lots of fun.

Grace Garrett/N3ZPD and Page Pyne/WA3EOP taught a class of future amateurs on Wednesday, January 27, 1999. This class will run until May 5. If you are interested, get in touch with Robert Long/KD3JK and sign up for the class.

Sunday, January 31, 1999, which is "Super Bowl Sunday", George Carpenter/N3QFS and other VEs gave several tests for Amateur License at Hagerstown Community College. Congratulations for the ones that took the tests, became hams, and/or upgraded.

Have a good and green St. Patrick's Day and do not forget to smell the flowers...Spring starts the 20th of March.

Until the next time...73, Donnie Sue/KB3AOO



Arlington Amateur Radio Club

Meeting: Third Tuesday of each month, 7:30 P.M., Red Cross building, 4333 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA. Nonmembers welcome! Net: Tuesdays (except meeting nights), 7:30 P.M., 144.87/145.47 Mhz FM.

Information: Mike Callaham, NW3V @ W3TOM, callaham@tmn.com, (703) 241-5618.

WWW: http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Lab/4306/

Minutes of the December 15 meeting of the Arlington Amateur Radio Club

President Jack WA4FXX called the meeting to order at 1942L. Also attending were Alan KO4ALA (formerly KD4FRK), Tom N4BYF, Walt, KT4EL, Gerald N4GA, George, KR4MU, Mike KA8OPJ, Dennis, W4PWF, Mike NW3V, and guest Frank K4EC.

The minutes of the November meeting as published in the Beacon, and the treasurer's report as submitted, were approved.

New business:

WA4FXX noted that IEEE had recently awarded the prestigious Steinmetz Award to W4PWF, for his leadership and technical contributions to digital facsimiles and other telecommunications technologies. The club's congratulations go to Dennis.

W4PWF mentioned that the ARRL had filed comments on proposed Part 97 revisions, concerning enforcement and the license restructuring.

For annual elections, the proposed slate included the current officers. The floor was opened

for additional nominations, but none was offered. KR4MU offered a motion (2nd KT4EL) to cast a vote of unanimous consent. Welcome back to President Jack Reed WA4FXX, Vice President Dennis Bodson W4PWF, Treasurer Tom Protz N4BYF, Secretary Mike Skelly KA8OPJ, and Activities Chairman Mike Callaham NW3V.

K4EC presented a plaque and certificate of appreciation to N4BYF, recognizing his considerable service to ARES prior to his retirement from some responsibilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 2017L for presentation by NW3V, on automatic speech synthesis from digital text. A live demonstration can be found on the club web site. After his presentations, attendees enjoyed a collection of party snacks, a gift exchange, and a few more minutes of good fellowship. Susan Lambert visited, and taught us to pronounce Aarhus, her new name. Congratulations on the occasion of her wedding.

Minutes of the January 19 meeting of the Arlington Amateur Radio Club

Vice President Dennis W4PWF called the meeting to order at 1935L. Also attending were Keith KC1AD, Alan KO4ALA, Tom N4BYF, Walt KT4EL, George KR4MU, Mike KA8OPJ, Mike NW3V, and guest Lisa Thompson.

The minutes of the December meeting as published on the Web page, and the treasurer's report as submitted, were approved.

New business:

W4PWF reported on his recent test of the response time and effectiveness of Arlington County emergency services, in a scenario involving an auto-truck collision near the entrance to a local hospital. Despite some weaknesses in the design phase of this test, the outcome was mostly satisfactory. Further testing will be done with computer simulations, as Dennis car is no longer

available for this purpose.

Brief discussion of potential weaknesses in our response to Y2K disasters identified electric power backup at the chapterhouse and numbers of personnel. Possibilities for replacing the generator, and for reinforcing the club membership, were outlined. KO4ALA predicted a need of 20 hams/shift to cover fire houses, schools, and the ECC.

A proposal to FAR to help fund recruiting additional amateurs is in the works. W4PWF will arrange to get mailing labels for all Arlington hams. KT4EL suggested that the mailing might include a reminder for all local hams, that in the event of a major disaster, they should LISTEN on a centralized radio frequency (possibly 146.415?) for announcements of OTHER FREQUENCIES for volunteer assignments.

Neither W4PWF nor KR4MU attended the recent FAR meeting. Their names were resubmitted for renewal as trustees (motion by NW3V, 2nd by KO4ALA, unanimous).

W4PWF gave updates on the proposed antenna ordinance.

W4PWF reported on the ARRL Board of Directors meeting in Houston. Increased enforcement activities are expected from FCC. The League has filed comments on the license restructuring proposals, generally favoring 3 license classes, a single code speed, and strict volunteer examining. The final notice on amateur license restructuring is expected in the spring, and on the Universal Licensing System in the summer.

After adjourning at 2035L, Lisa Thompson gave a presentation on the Arlington County communications and dispatching system. Tentatively, our 4/20 meeting will be at the ArlCo ECC.

Respectfully submitted, Mike KA8OPJ, Secretary

HAMFEST/COMPUTERFEST Electronics Fleamarket

Sponsored by:
Anne Arundel Radio Club (AARC)
and
Kent Island Amateur Radio Club (KIARC)

When: Saturday May 1, 1999

Where: Grasonville, MD VFW Grounds

Time: 0800-1500 (Open at 0600 for Tailgate and Vendor

Setup)

Donation: \$4, Tail Gate free to Licensed HAMS

Indoor Tables Also available

Info: tonyy@juno.com; w2kbr@toad.net;

K3ORC@amsat.org; pvtpilot@friend.ly.net Information also available on the 147.105 repeater and the AARC Web

Page at: HTTP://home.att.net/~n3szw/aarc.html

QLF (left foot CW) Contest!

Breakfast and Lunch Provided by VFW Auxiliary





Talk-in Repeaters: 147.105 or 146.94 (also check out 448.225, pl-114.8)
73, See You There!

ANNOUNCING THE 1999 GREATER BALTIMORE HAMBOREE AND COMPUTERFEST

HOST TO THE

ARRL MARYLAND STATE CONVENTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 27 AND SUNDAY, MARCH 28 TIMONIUM FAIR GROUNDS - TIMONIUM, MARYLAND



ARRL Convention Program and Banquet
Giant Indoor and Outdoor Show and Sale Areas
Over One Half Million Square Feet of Sales Area
Three Buildings with Over 1,100 Indoor Spaces • Over 5 Acres Indoors
Amateur Radio Manufacturers, Dealers, and Ham Fleamarket
5 Acre Outdoor Hard Surface Tailgate Area • Premium Indoor Tailgate Area
F.C.C. Amateur Radio License Examinations • Over 16,000 Attended in '98

Many Show Special Bargains Three Buildings • Acres of Parking • Great Food

SHOW WILL BE HELD IN ANY WEATHER

Show Hours are: Saturday, 8 to 5 Sunday, 8 to 4 ● Admission is \$5.00 Each Day
A Weekend Admission Ticket is just \$8.00, Advance Sale Only!

Sponsored by: The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club, Inc. ● Post Office Box 95 ● Timonium, MD 21094-0095

Dial 410-HAM-FEST Anytime!
Outside the State of Maryland, Dial 1-800-HAM-FEST (1-800-426-3378)

Visit Our Home Page at www.gbhc.org



Capital City Amateur Radio Society

Meetings: 3rd Saturday of each month at 1200 hours at the Woodridge Public Library, 18th and Rhode Island Ave, N.E., Washington, D.C. Visitors welcome.

Repeater: W3ETX 144.51/145.11 MHz, open.

Nets: Computer Monday at 2000 hrs., Regular net Wednesday at 2000 hrs. RTTY net Thursday 2100 hrs., voice portion 2145 hrs. all on 145.110.

Mailing Address CCARS P.O. Box 92304 Washington. D.C. 20090-2304

Information: Steve, W3ETX, (202) 526-1329 or Joe K3UAL (301) 773-5074 EMail K3UAL @Juno.com.

CCARS Birthday Celebration will be held Thursday? February 11, 1999 at the Officers Club Fort Meade, Maryland, 6:00 p. m. in Room 5. For information call Joe K3UAL 301 773-9383.

Celebrating Birthdays on January 7, 1999 were Steve W3ETX and Joe K3UAL.

Our December meeting at the Woodbridge Library NE Washington, D. C. with a collation sponsored by the club, John N3TCD was responsible for the fine menu.

Sharyn KA3DOF is still waiting for the return of her HF rig from the repair man, that went "that away" during the ARRL Sweepstakes contest. Sam N3ECI and Joe K3UAL have been making some real DX QSO's on HF RTTY.

73's Joe K3UAL



Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 4th Friday of the month at 7:30pm, at the Doctors Community Hospital, 8118 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD (no meeting in December). Enter in the Outpatient Testing entrance across from the Emergency Room entrance behind the main building. Take the elevator to the 5th floor and exit left, the meeting room (DSE Room) is on the right. Repeater: N3EZD/R 145.230 Mhz. Transmit a 110.9 Hz CTCSS Tone for full area coverage. No tone necessary for local coverage.

Net: Every Tuesday, 9:30pm, 145.230 MHz repeater.

Mailing Address: Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club, P. O. Box 788, Greenbelt, MD 20768-0788.

Information: Jim Tilton, Pres. - KD3JA, (301) 552-0012.)

Web Page: http://www.erols.com/jctilton/cmarc/.

Longwave Radio

CMARC's January 22nd meeting featured a presentation by Henry Lee/KB1PE on low frequency communications (above 160 meters). The presentation included discussion of various signals that can be heard in this frequency range, including beacons, natural phenomena and European broadcast stations. Some European countries even have amateur radio allocations in this range. Two local beacon stations (DC, Oxon Hill, MD at 332Khz and GAI, Gaithersburg, MD at 385 Khz) were heard after the meeting by yours truly on a Ten-Tec PC Radio (Model RX-320).

Novice/Technician Class

Five students from our Novice/ Technician class took tests in November and December, and three of them earned amateur radio licenses.

Leonard (now KB3DFB) and Eugene (now KB3DFD) earned their Technician Plus licenses, and Patricia (now KB3DFC) her no-code Technician license and a General class theory certificate. Lucius Thompson also earned his Novice theory certificate. Congratulations to everyone!! Leonard, Eugene and Patricia were voted in as new CMARC members at CMARC's Holiday Party.

Emergency Communications

A discussion of emergency communications is planned for CMARC's regular meeting on February 26th.

73 de Jim/KD3JA



Columbia Amateur Radio Association

Club meeting: Every fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church on Bethany Lane in Ellicott City. Monitor net repeater for directions.

Repeaters: 147.735/147.135 (cross-linked to 222.32/223.92). Net Repeater. PL control of 156.7. 147.990/147.390. Open autopatch and direct dial 911. 222.32/223.92 (cross-linked to 147.735/147.135). 443.275/448.275 PL control of 156.7. 444.475/449.475. Autopatch & 911.

Mailing: Columbia Amateur Radio Assoc. (CARA), Box 911, Columbia, MD 21044.

Web Page: http://www.qsi.net/cara/

Activities: CARA breakfast: 9:00 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month at Jilly's Restaurant in the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center on Rte. 40. Contact Bob/KC3EV by 6:00 p.m. the day before the breakfast.

Information: Bob/KC3EV, 410-465-2421

CARA elections were held in November. Two incumbents were re-elected, and Dave/W8AJR and Tim/WITRT stepped forward to fill open positions. CARA's 1999 Board of Directors are:

Pres. Bob Scarburgh/KC3EV
VP Dave Prestel/W8AJR
Treas. John Pinkston/W3GJN
Secy. Dan Goulette/N3LDC
Mbr-at-Large Tim Titus/WITRT
Past Pres. Larry Russo/K3TFU
Trustee Alan Chedester/N3AC

Officers were installed at our regular meeting, Tues., Jan. 26.

We sadly announce that CARA's packet station is going off the air due to lack of interest. The equipment will be dismantled and stored for future use. Many, many thanks to Bink/W3MMM who worked so long and hard to keep the station on air.

73's, Jean/KB3AOT



Dulles Amateur Radio Group

On-the-air meeting: Tuesdays at 8:00pm on

the Dulles repeater

Repeater: N4FSC, 145.310- (near Dulles

airport)

Mail: Dulles Amateur Radio Group, P.O. Box

5073, Herndon, VA 20172-1964 Home Page: www.darg.org. Email: darg@darg.org.

Club callsign: W4DLS

Information: Mike Weber, WB8RDN, 703-

450-2304.

It was the dead of winter. Few things of note were happening. The radio amateur is engaged in fighting an instinctive urge to install an antenna in the coldest, wettest weather that Winter can provide. Working on ice covered rooftops and towers is engaging entertainment for those on the ground. But it's March, and time has nearly run out. But wait... there's wind! And DARG is talking about antennas:

DARG is currently engaged in a couple of projects that have long term significance. Perhaps most important is our work on DARG's 440 MHz repeater. We are currently performing the research necessary to complete the forms that must be submitted to the local frequency coordinators (T-MARC).

By the time you read this, this part of the endeavor should be complete. (But we still can't figure out how those maps were originally folded.) It is DARG's goal to place the repeater in operation by year's end.

Beyond the paperwork lie acquisition of the equipment and it's installation. Finally, plans must be made for the repeater's ongoing operation and maintenance.

An event that may be less complex, but is closely related, is the planning and installation of antennas on the roofs of the Loudoun Hospital Center's two buildings (one in Leesburg and the other in Lansdowne). DARG's continued support of the Loudoun Hospital Center requires reliable communications, and a permanently mounted antenna at each facility will ensure our ability to provide this reliability.

Our 440 MHz repeater will be located at LCH's Lansdowne facility, and so the scouting and installation if this antenna is of particular importance.

Amateur Radio Examinations

DARG remains committed to providing Amateur Radio examinations (through the ARRL VEC). It has proven difficult for us to locate a suitable, inexpensive location in which to offer the exams, and as a result, we expect to hold 1999's first session in April, somewhat behind our anticipated schedule. Once the date of the first round of examinations is determined, it will be posted here in Auto-Call and on DARG's website at http://www.darg.org. Look in next month's issue.

New Member

We're always happy to announce a new member who has joined DARG, and it is our pleasure to welcome Bill Swanson (KF4WDF) who became a member back in January. Welcome aboard, Bill. See you on the air.

DARG's Net Frequency

Each Tuesday evening at 8:00 PM (local), DARG holds its weekly net on the Herndon repeater (145.31 -). The net offers the most up to date information on what is happening within DARG, and we encourage all of our members, and everyone else for that matter, to join in. A recent discussion topic suggested by Mike (WB8RDN) concerned the net itself. Should we continue to "meet" every week? Would it be more practical to reduce the frequency of the net (an unfortunate choice of terms if ever there was one)? Do you think that every other week is more practical to better serve a busy group of people? We're eager to hear your opinion on this. The net is the logical place to air your vote, although the website has a form that you can submit if you wish. Of course there's always email.

1999 Virginia QSO Party

DARG is once again this year sponsoring a plaque to be awarded at the close of the 1999 Virginia QSO Party that will be held March 20-22. Our sister club, SPARC sponsors the event, and you can learn more about it on SPARC's website (http://www.qsl.net/sterling/) or DARG's website. If you are the kind of person who hates to enjoy yourself, I urge caution as you make the decision to participate. The word on the street is that it's great fun. Undoubtedly, Bill Lorentz (KS4II) will have a word or two to say on the subject in SPARC's Auto-Call column in this issue. In closing, a reminder to have a look at DARG.Org from time to time, and don't hesitate to criticize what you see. We're on the lookout for new ideas, and will be highlighting Field Day as a topic of discussion. And mom says eat your vegetables. And that's it for now.



Green Mountain Repeater Association

Repeaters: *146.61 Cheverly, *146.88

Greenbelt. *(Autopatch).

Information: Don Tinari, W3RYQ, (301) 262-7062.

Mail: P.O. Box 523, Bowie, MD. 20718.

E-mail: mgreen@erols.com.

Socials: Luncheon, 1st Saturday of each month at 11:30 A.M., Laurel Centre Indoor

Mall Eatery.

Nets: 146.88 - Old Gent's Net, 9:30 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. every day. Washington Adventist Amateur Radio Association Net, every

Thursday at 9:30 P.M.

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL SERVICE!

or or section and services of the order

The 88 repeater went off the air in the early hours of Wednesday morning, December 23 1998. That very afternoon, members of your Technical Committee isolated the problem to a faulty transistor on the transmitter's oscillator board. A spare transistor was located and the repeater placed back in operation Thursday afternoon, December 24th.

Now, that's that I call service considering the holidays and the (remember) inclimate weather of ice and snow. And just think, we didn't even have to wait at home for a service repair person. Thanks to Joe, KD3VR, Bruce, N3ZUY and Grady, WB3JUV, who provided the transistor on very short notice.

INTERNET/REPEATER OPERATION KEEPS ON GOING AND GOING

Some excellent Internet/repeater connections to radio amateurs in Thailand (HS), Wales, (GW),

England, (G), Northern Italy, (I), Ireland, (EI), Scotland, (GM), The Yukon, (VE), and to repeaters in Honolulu, and the Dominican Republic were made over the holidays via GMRA repeaters. It is a great change of pace to have an exchange with someone in the far north and a foreign country; an international education as you drive around town or from the comfort of your home.

Listen to the 61 and 88 repeaters for the announcement that the Internet Link is in operation. GMRA continues to be the only radio club in the Washington DC area to provide this service for the past 18 months.

VOICE MAIL

Just a reminder that the new repeater controllers enable you to leave a "voice message" on the repeater for your family and/or friends, who are amateurs and GMRA members. Consult the new operating manual and code card for information on how to use this new feature, among others...

parame handenpo 2 DZMCC (pryrotzen finlight). -- InVOICETEST PLAYBACK (). -- Internacional final incompanional

And, you can also hear your voice transmission played back immediately for test purposes or to determine how you are getting into the repeaters. Again, consult the operating manual and code card.

HANGING IN THERE AT 93!

Very pleased to report that Drummy, K3GIU, is back running "The Old Gent's Net" on the 88 repeater, daily at 930am and 630pm, albeit on a spart time basis. Drummy is recovering from an illness, but at age 93, he is one heck of a fighter. Welcome back kiddo!

EMAIL BULLETINS

If you have an E-mail address and are not receiving the GMRA monthly electronic bulletins, please let me know at mgreen@erols.com. The master address list was completed last month for all renewed and new members joining for the new

year. Again thanks for your support.

A FEW WORDS FOR ALL REPEATER USERS

"Support your local repeater". Not a new slogan but an important one. Amateur radio is up against some stiff obstacles. Pressure from commercial interests for our frequencies; interest groups wanting to lower or do away with license standards; a slow growth in upgrading and new "blood" coming into the amateur service, and lack of adequate enforcement, (albeit some improvement over the past few months.)

Our local area is fortunate enough to have a large number of repeaters for your personal use. It is important that if you use a particular repeater, that you support it financially. Electricity, telephone, insurance bills and funds for spare parts and new equipment are required for their day to day operation.

Without your funding, the repeaters will most certainly begin to slowly disappear and with it a technology that has been an amateur mainstay for almost 30 years. Don't let this happen.

Most repeater club dues are minimal, e.g. about a dollar a month. Reasonable by any standard considering the features and enjoyment you derive from them. And remember, you have club officers/members voluntarily knocking themselves out, going up to repeaters sites that are cramped, cold in winter, hot in summer, to make adjustments, repairs, install equipment and program controllers. Others maintain administrative records, develop bulletins and newsletters to keep you abreast of club happenings.

So, if you tend to use a repeater on a regular basis or even intermittently, you can help by supporting it. It will give it back to you ten fold in enjoyment! "Support your local repeater". Not such a bad phrase when you think about it, but an important one. Your consideration is appreciated.

73 de Murray, K3BEQ



Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: Second Thursday of each month, 5:30 PM, In the Historical Electronics Museum, West Nursery Road and Elkridge Landing Roads. Linthicum, Maryland (Next to BWI Marriott Hotel).

Info: Les Jamison, WR3X, 410-787-0341. Club Station: W3GR.

Mail: P.O. Box 746, Mail Stop 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203.

Web Page: http://members.aol.com/wk3p/se.htm

Street address: 1745 W. Nursery Rd.,

Linthicum, MD 21090.

Training

The Advanced/Extra Class training program continues. The class is quite small so it may be possible to make up lost class time. For more information call Rol Anders, K3RA 410-796-4792. Museum Expansion

The Museum is planning an expansion and HEMARC has been actively working with the group dooing the planning. The rearrangements and expansions will give HEMARC more opportunity to reach adults as well as participate in programs designed to provide more understanding of the role of electronics in today s world and an appreciation of the rich history of the development of electronics.

The club needs more volunteers to operate W3GR during the week, on special occasions and on Saturdays. Pleas consider this an invitation to join in this worthwhile fun with us.

All Day ATV meeting at the Museum

On February 14th the Baltimore Radio Television Society and the Chesapeake Amateur

Television Society aresponsor an all day meeting of the Central Atlantic Amateur Television Net. The meeting will be held at the Museum at 10AM. The objective is to develop a Central Atlantic Area linked network for ATV. ALL ATV buff were invited. If you have interest in any aspect of ATV contact Heru Wamsley, W4WVV 410-766-3545.

HEMARC Support of TORSK Operation

Again this year HEMARC will support Jim Flanders, WOOOG, Submarine Memorial Radio Room Reactivation effort by providing some operators for the TORSK radio room. This will be held April 24 and 25. More operators are always needed (SB and/or CW) so if this interest you, please call Nick Yokanovich, NONY at 410-544-5736.

Victim of Old Man Winter

The January meeting of HEMARC was canceled due to the ice storm that made driving a bit too hazardous.

73 de Chip W4PBG



Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

Meetings: Third Saturday of every month (except Nov/Dec meeting; check with club contact for specific date) 8:30 A.M. at El Ranch Plus Restaurant, Purcellville, VA. (Monitor 147.48 Mhz simplex.)

Club Station: K4LRG

Net: LARG 10 Meter Net, Sundays at 8:00 P.M. local on 147.48 Mhz; Commuter Net, mornings and evenings during the week on 147.48 Mhz FM.

Mailing: P.O. Box 1004, Purcellville, VA

Info: Gary Quinn, NC4S, 540-882-3017 or Norm Styer, AI2C, 540-228-2584

Web Site: http://www.micro-neil.com/k4lrg

The first meeting of The Loudoun Amateur Radio Group was on January 16, 1999. An ARRL Field Day Committee was established: Gary Quinn, NC4S, John Unger, W4AU, Bob Bee, W4POF, Dennis Boehler, KF4TJI, and Ray Houff, K4AJA were named to this committee.

A LARG Contest Committee was also formed: John Unger, W4AU- Chairman, Tom Carney, WB9RXJ, and Temp Titus, W4HZV have the mission of devising a LARG contest for 1999 like the recently completed LARG 10 Meter DX Trophy Count.

Election of Officers for 1999:

Norm Styer, AI2C - President Ray Houff, K4AJA - Vice President Nancy Dluehosh, KF4RTP - Secretary Dale Cabaniss, KD4LSL - Treasurer

The Balloon Committee was re-energized with a report from Tom Dawson, WB3AKD, that he had acquired a new 10 milliwatt transmitter which could be tuned to the 2 Meter band. The Balloon Committee members are:

Tom Dawson, WB3AKD Gary Quinn, NC4S Charlie Preston, K4LJH John Unger, W4AU Tom Carney, WB9RXJ

The LARG members welcomed Don, KU4WE and Barbara Heckman of Lovettsville and of Loudoun Valley Christmas Farm to the LARG.

By an approved motion, it was agreed to move the next meeting of the LARG to Saturday, February 13, 1999 so our members could participate in the ARRL International DX CW Contest on February 20-21, 1999.

It was agreed that the LARG should invite John Kanode, N4MM ARRL Director to speak at our February meeting.

Norm Styer, AI2C, thanked all who participated in First Night Leesburg: Paul Dluehosh, N4PD, kept the 12 or so LARG members very busy and Tom Dawson, WB3AKD, did a super job as Net Control Station: K4LRG.



The Maryland Apple Dumpling Radio Amateur Society, Inc.

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Thursdays - 7:00 P.M. St. Paul's Church, 10401 Armory Avenue, Kensington, Maryland 20895.

Clubhouse: MADRAS Clubhouse, 11800 Coakley Circle, Rockville, MD 20852

Nets: 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 9:00 P.M. on

145.45 MHz (PL-5A).

Repeaters: 444.100/449.100 MHz (PL-2A),

145.45/144.85 MHz (PL-5A).

WWW Address: http://www.3phase.com/

madras/

Mailing: P. O. Box 2468, Wheaton, MD 20902 Information: Leo Boberschmidt W3LEO (301)946-3738, Jean Blacik N3PLC (301) 984-6114.

Club Call Sign: W3MAD E-Mail: leob@erols.com

Well, Murphy's Law was alive and well on January 14th, which was to have been our first meeting in 1999. As most of you will recall, the 14th was the beginning of the now famous ice storm in our area.

After not meeting since November, most of our members were anxious to get together and start planning our activities for the coming year. But of course with an inch and a half of ice covering the streets and sidewalks and cars, this was not possible, so we had to cancel the meeting.

Many of our members were conversing by handhelds during the period when no electricity was available. I think I heard more people on the air during those 4 or 5 days then I have all year.

We had a good attendance when we finally got together on January 28th. It was great to see everyone again and share stories from the ice storm. We discovered that some of our members were without electricity for as long as 5 days while others only lost power for 4 or 5 hours.

Just about everyone at the meeting had tree problems and agreed it was one of the worst storms they can remember. Let's hope we don't see a repeat for at least another 100 years.

Don't forget about our non-meeting Thursday night Net on 145.45 at 9 00 P.M.

Check your March Bulletin for information on our meeting programs..

73 Jean - N3PLC



Maryland Emergency Phone Net

Meetings: Nightly, 1800 Local, 3920 kHz Directors: W3BOB, KG6TU, K3GK

Alternate: WA4GGH Manager: KE3OX,

Secretary/Treasurer: W3YD.

FAR Representatives: KZ3AB, WA3YLO

The Maryland Emergency Phone Net (MEPN) is a section net of the National Traffic System (NTS) that meets to pass traffic into, out of, and within Maryland and the District of Columbia. Liaisons to nets in the states of Delaware and West Virginia are available. Liaison to regional and area NTS nets is available through the MDD CW net.

The officers include Mark Dudley KE3OX as Net Manager, and Pud Reaver W3YD as Secretary/ Treasurer. The directors are Bob Bradt W3BOB, Dave Furman KG6TU, and George Korper K3GK. Al Brown KZ3AB and Tony Young WA3YLO are the MEPN representatives at FAR meetings.

The MEPN meets every night at 6:00 PM local on 3920 kHz. Every Saturday prior to the regular net session there is an on-air Director's meeting at 5:45 PM local to discuss net issues

All appropriately licensed amateur operators are invited to participate, even if they are not members. The MEPN is always looking for amateurs interested in traffic handling or just checking in to the net. For information, contact Pud Reaver at 301-498-6293 or (HYPERLINK mailto:preaver@erols.com) "preaver@erols.com".

The MEPN will be meeting during the Baltimore Amateur Radio Club (BARC) hamfest at Timonium MD to discuss net issues. For convenience, there will be a meeting on Saturday March 27 and one on Sunday March 28. Each meeting will be at 12:30 in one of the second floor rooms of the Exhibition Hall. Interested individuals are invited to attend in order to get more info on the MEPN or to meet the members. CU at the hamfest!



Metropolitan Communications **Network Radio** Club, Inc.

Meetings: Quarterly, Second Sunday of the

month at 13:30 p.m. Place TBA Repeater: 52.250 IN/53.350 Out.

Net: AM Coffee net Sunday 9:00 AM on

Information: 6608 N. 18th St. Arlington, VA

22205

The first meeting of 1999 was held Sunday the 10th of December 1400 hrs. at the OTH of Joe Saunders K3UAL. Discussions were centered on projects for the improvement of effective progress of club programs for his year. Emphasis was pointed at membership acquisition and retention.

Two new members who have been frequent

check-ins on the Sunday morning net were welcomed in the club, John Ward W30I and Robert Lee K3RE. Due to inclement weather conditions some members were excused.

Present at the meeting was Bob Sporn WA3GGO Net Control for the Sunday Morning Coffee Net. Congratulations to Bob on the celebration of his Birthday this month. Keep up the 'good work" we will catch up with you one day.

Sorry to hear that Chris KA3LJR and his XYL were down with the flu. Our Secretary Mary Milligan KAlKWP is on the mend from a fall and a broken wrist. The club wishes Hugh Turnbull W3ABC a speedy recovery from his illness.

73's Joe K3UAL

The Mid-Atlantic TLANTIC DX and Repeater Association

Meetings: Rotating locations among Hagerstown MD, Frederick MD, Martinsburg WV and Gaithersburg MD.

Net: Thursday evenings at 1930 local on 147.06.

4 State10M net: Wednesdays at 2000 local on 28.315.

Repeaters: Frederick MD: 147.06, 224.20, 448.125; Martinsburg WV: 147.345.

Mailing: 230 North Potomac St., Suite 2A,

Hagerstown MD 21740

Information: Voice BBS (301) 416-8447 and

(301) 473-4151.

Web Page: http://www.qsl.net/madra

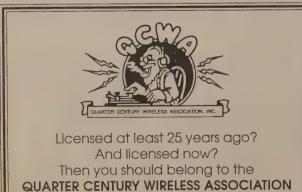
E-Mail: madra@juno.com

As usual we are behind on some of our projects, but with a dozen volunteers out of five dozen members, we're probably running right along with all the other clubs. Rockville, Brunswick, and Oakland are still in the works, but not as far along as we'd hoped for this time of 1999.

Novice/Tech training classes continue to spark a bit of interest in the community. Frederick County is continuing to make a classroom available adjacent to the emergency radio room. The class that started late in 1998 is winding to an end. As this is written, the next one is to start in late February so it should be moving right along by the time this column is published.

Thanks to Shawn, N6REP, we think we have a line on the very strange interference that's been afflicting the 147.06 repeater. The result sounds like processed speech, almost incomprehensible, that's been run through a serious echo chamber. Shawn's deduction is that two Ham frequencies are summing, and a third is beating on that sum to yield a 2M difference on our input frequency. Now to track the stations and see how we might work out a solution.

January's dinner meeting was heavily impacted by snow/sleet/freezing rain/ice - what they seem to call around here a "wintry mix". February's is still to happen as this is written but you could join us for March. That would be on Thursday, 11 March, at 7PM. This time the place is Brewers' Alley, in beautiful downtown Frederick, Maryland. Don't think that you can't come if you're not a MADRA member or not renewed. We'll just try to talk you into signing up when you get there. 73 DE N2CSQ/3



For information write: 159 East 16th Ave., Dept F Eugene, OR 97401-4017 http://www.teleport.com/~qcwa



Montgomery Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m., Executive Office Bldg, Montgomery Co. Govt Center, 101 Monroe St, Rockville. Park in underground lot G-2. Repeaters: 146.955 (-600) & 442.750 (PL

156.7) in Rockville.

Club Net: Every Sunday night at 7:30 PM,

on the MARC repeater.

Internet: http://www.qsl.net/marc

Mail: MARC, P.O. Box 611, Gaithersburg,

MD 20884-0611

Information: Jeff - KZ3F (301) 258-0112 **Training:** Ms. Rocky Jones (301) 216-5210.

The membership directory will be published at the end of January. Thank you for your renewal. The budget was presented at the January 20, 1999 meeting. The repeater committee and the digital committee both are working on long term plans. Budgeted money for repeater and digital will not be spent until a viable plan is approved by the board. Meetings for both committees are open. Please contact Bruce Shanks, N8XTS for digital and Al Rabassa, NW2M for repeater.

A General upgrade class will be held beginning Thursday March 4, 1999. Classes are held at the Gaithersburg High School from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Thursday Mar 4, 11, 18 and 25. Tests will be given on Wednesday, Mar 31. Tests will be available for all levels. Contact, Rocky Larroca, K4YXO or Peggy Kelly, N3PPG for more information.

RACES was activated to help deal with the problems associated with Friday, January 15's ice storm. The RACES hospital net was activated on Sunday, January 17 as a result of the Olney substation explosion placing 3 hospitals on generator backup.

Upcoming Public Service events include the MS Walk on April 17, 1999. More details forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Reinhold, N3VOL, Treasurer



National Capital ARES Council

NCAC Net: Sunday at 9 PM on 146.655(-)

Voice mail: (703) 359-3414. **E-mail:** NCAC@usa.net.

ARES/RACES Public Service and How We Relate to Others

Its been a busy year in the Public and Emergency Service business. From Hurricane Georges to the earthquake in Columbia to our local activations for the phone line cut-over at Fairfax Hospital, the Hospital Net in Montgomery County after an recent ice storm and everything in between—we've been there.

For some of us, Public and Emergency Service are primary interests in amateur radio and we take it seriously, training and training others—encouraging new hams to join in.

For others who enjoy other facets of the "hobby"—I hate to use that word—building, experimenting, DXing and contesting become a critical force in Emergency Response.

Hams who would never give a second thought to "working" a parade jump at the chance to monitor an HF net in support of a disaster operation.

After Hurricane George, several hams from across DC, Maryland and Northern VA gathered, over a two week period to unpack, assemble and repack communications equipment to be shipped from American Red Cross National Headquarters to Puerto Rico. When it was learned that ARC was

looking for Spanish-speaking personnel to go along, Ted Nazario volunteered for whatever and however long he was needed. He has family in Puerto Rico and had just left there the Sunday before. His technical AND language skills made him a perfect match for the job—translating for Puerto Rican engineers involved in placing temporary repeaters throughout the island and acting as guide. In the fire service, we call this "going outside the box"—doing something beyond what is normally expected of you, jumping in, going the "extra mile" to get something accomplished.

There are four things we, as amateurs, need to consider when planning and carrying out Public and Emergency Service:

- 1. Don't overlook any resource when looking for volunteers. Include ARES/RACES, Military MARS, SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) and REACT in your plan. Do it now—don't wait until "the big one!" (another fire service term). Find out which organizations and what resources are available in your community and decide how best to use everyone. This will save you a lot of headaches when the need arises because so many decisions will already have been made.
- 2. Train your volunteers. The event and the needs it causes will determine your activity, but everyone needs to have a minimum of operational and procedural training. Two of the most important things volunteers need to remember are that they must be flexible and they must be prepared to take care of their own needs if necessary.
- 3. Practice your plan. Give different groups a chance to get to know each other and work together without the pressure of a real event. You are likely to identify some weaknesses and an opportunity to improve your system.
- 4. Don't stand around with your hands in your pockets waiting for someone to call you on the radio. If there's work to be done and you are able—pitch in—just don't forget to listen to your radio!

It'll help pass the time and leave a much favorable impression. One of my most memorable experiences was the incident at Spring Valley—the development in Washington where World War l weapons were dug up during construction. I spent 2 1/2 days helping Red Cross volunteers hand out hot food and drinks to emergency workers digging at the sight —otherwise it would have been a very long and dull assignment. I'm sure there are a few of those workers remember the ham that made the coffee and manned the microwave!

Those amateurs who still wouldn't consider doing Public or Emergency Service need to remember—we don't maintain our spectrum and privileges because Congress or the FCC care whether you like your hobby. They care because we can provide auxiliary communications in an emergency. Everyone should do their part by making themselves and their resources available to their local ARES Emergency Coordinator or RACES Radio Officer. Do it today—their contact information is available on the Internet or through a net on your local repeater. Don't wait until "the big one" comes or make them search you out!

Upcoming ARES Activities:

February 28: Va ARES Forum at Winterfest, 12:30, Annandale NOVA Community College March 6: St Patrick's Day Parade, 10:00, Alexandria—contact Karen (703)317-9305 May 8: Skywarn Advisory Committee, NWS Sterling, 8:00

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



14803 Build America Drive, Bldg B Woodbridge, VA 22191 (703) 643-1063, (800) 444-4799

ANAHEIM, CA • ATLANTA. GA • DENVER, CO • NEW CASTLE. DE OAKLAND. CA • PHOENIK, AZ • PORTLAND. OR • SALEM, NH SAN DEGO, CA • SUNNYVALE. CA • VAN NUYS, CA • WOODBRIDGE. VA



Potomac Valley Radio Club

Packet: K3MQH 145.63, K4FJ 145.77, KE3Q 145.57 445.375, N3RR 145.51 441.325, N4OHE 145.71 440.925, N4SR 145.63, W3LPL 145.59 441.25, WR3L 145.61 440.95.

Web: www.pvrc.org & www.pagesz.net/~pvrcnc

Repeater: 147.000(-) Thanks to Ashton RCS **Information:** Bob Dannals, W2GG@ amsat.org, 410-472-2004 before 9pm and Rich Boyd, KE3Q@erols.com, 301-464-8014.

You don't have to be a club member or send in a log to jump into any of these March contests and have fun!

ARRL DX Contest, SSB: 5th 7pm to 7th 7pm. 1.8 - 28 Mhz bands. Work stations outside Canada and the 48 states. You send RS-state (ex: 59 Virginia) and DX sends RS-Power (ex: 59100). Multipliers are DXCC countries. PVRC members compete in the club competition category.

Wisconsin QSO Party: 13th 1pm to 14th 8pm. CW: 3550, 3705, 7050, 7125, and 14050 kHz plus 15 & 10 meters. Phone: 3890, 7230, 14290, 21350, and 28400 kHz. WI stations work anybody and send county others work WI stations and send state. Alaska QSO Party, CW and phone: 19th 7pm to 21nd 7pm on 1835, 3700, 7035, 7135, 7235, 14035,14245, 21135, 21335, 28135, and 28335 kHz. We send RS(T) and state and work only AK stations. AK send RS(T) and city.

Bermuda Worldwide Contest, phone and CW. 19th 7pm to 21nd 7pm but only operate 24 hours. 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz. Exchange RS(T) only. Work anybody. Multiply QSO points by DXCC countries and then by the number of Bermuda stations worked.

Virginia QSO Party: 20th 1pm to 21st 9pm. CW: 1805 kHz and 50 kHz up from band edge on others. PHONE: 1845, 3860, 7260, 14260, 21360, and 28360 KHz. Also 10 KHz up from the edge of the novice CW bands and 28360 KHz. Also 50.125, 147.48, 223.50, and 446.00 MHZ. VA stations work anybody and send QSO number and county. Others work only VA stations and send number and state. Complete rules are on page 26 of the February *AutoCall*.

CQ WPX Contest, SSB. 26th 7pm to 28th 7pm. 1.8, 3.5, 7, 14, 21, & 28 MHz bands. Single operator stations work any 36 hours. Work anybody and exchange RS plus a serial number (ex: 59001). Working a station in your own country counts only as a multiplier; no QSO points. Each different prefix (ex: WA4, K4, and AC4) worked is a multiplier. PVRC members compete in the club competition category.

SHAREWARE CONTEST SOFTWARE CT 6.26 with updated country and section files is available FREE from K3DI to anybody living in the PVRC contest club area, that is, Southern PA, MD, DE, DC, WV, VA, and Northern NC.

73, Dick Wilder, K3DI, 410-757-6707, wilder@clark.net, or via the above packet network.



Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: First and Third Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. SVARC Club House 2921 Grace Street, Winchester, Virginia.

Repeater: 146.22 In/ 146.82 Out.

Net: Shenandoah Valley Emergency Net (SVEN) 7:15 daily on 146.22/146.82 Repeater.

Mailing: P.O. Box 139 Winchester, 22604.

President: Wayne Koehler, KE4PMS **Info:** Wayne Koehler, 540-667-8629.

Internet home page: http://www.vvalley.

com/svarc.

I predict the Congressional Hearings on the impeachment of President Clinton will end one of these days. This is only the viewpoint of the writer and in no way reflects on the position of the SVARC. In the meantime, I'd better get back to club business or Wayne might fire me.

The Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club is currently in the midst of a theory training session for the General Class License. A Volunteer Exam Session for "all classes" of Amateur Radio License is being sponsored by the SVARC and will be held on Feb. 24, 1999 (7:30pm) at the club house, 2921 Grace Street, Winchester, VA.

The next theory training class will be for the Novice and Technician level license. Training begins on April 14, 1999 and will run for six consecutive Wednesdays through May 19, 1999. Classes will be held at the club house at 7:00pm. A Volunteer Exam Session for "all classes" of license will be offered the following week May 26, 1999 at 7:30pm at the SVARC Club House.

Later in the year (begins on Wed, June 2, 1999) a CW BEGINNERS CLASS is being offered by the SVARC. This class also runs for six consecutive Wednesdays (at 7:00pm) and will be followed up by a VE Session on July 14, 1999 at 7:30pm. Watch the Auto Call for updates on additional training dates and VE Sessions sponsored by the SVARC. By now you may have noticed that our Training Group are "Wednesday People", so take your "Think Pills" on Wednesday and join one or more of these classes. Fred and Greg and others are anxiously awaiting your call! In case you did not notice.....they told me to emphasize that classes are held at 7:00pm and VE Sessions are held at 7:30pm.

For additional information contact: Fred Wetzel W4KRT 1-540-678-0394 e-mail: hwetzel@adelphia.net . Greg Lanham KU4AN 1-540-722-4792 e-mail: kuan@visuallink.com

Until Next Time, 73's Guy Avey/W3INT



Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 2nd Friday of each month at 1930 ET at the PG County Police, Clinton Station, 6707 Groveton Drive, Clinton, Maryland.

Nets: Tuesday at 2000 on 147.15+ Repeater; Wednesday at 2000 on 1.865 (+/-QRM); Thursday at 2000 on 28.447 USB.

Repeater: WA3YUV/R 147.15+, Brandywine, Md. PL114.8, Autopatch to 911. **Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 273, Cheltenham, Md, 20623

Information: Vic (WA3YUV) & Linda (KA3VNI), (301) 888-1388.

Internet: http://www.iscanit.com/smarc

Well, here it is ... 1999 already ... Happy New Year to all! Of course, when you read this in March, all the year-end celebrations will be just a memory.

Speaking of year-end celebrations, SMARC had its annual Christmas Party at the Holiday Inn, Waldorf, and a good time was had by all. The new officers were installed and are moving forward. Our January meeting was cancelled due to the ice storm.

At the Christmas Party, the SMARC selection for "Ham of the Year" was made public. To no one's surprise, it was non other than Mike Martin, N3RWF. Mike has made many contributions to SMARC over the years, too numerous to mention here. He is one of the few members brave (or ??) enough to scale the lofty heights of the towers where our repeater antennas are located. It's scary enough for me just to stand on the ground watching his performance.

Actually, Mike has just received his new callsign. So you can forget about N3RWF ... that is history ... Mike is now K3RFI. In his own words: "Keep your ear open for a new call sign,

K3RFI. I have never liked the call N3RWF. The "w" is a little difficult for a call and the "f" is always mistaken for an "s". Also there is something about the RFI part that has a familiar ring to it. This new call sign may find its way to a vanity call tag on not only my truck, but possibly the PEPCO vehicle as well."

As you may already know, the SMARC 440 repeater is back on the air. Vic, WA3YUV, Allen, KA3ZPA, and Mike, N3...oops, K3RFI, went up and found a couple of problems. Vic touched it with his magic wand and its working again. Something about being slightly off frequency. We still need to address the controller problems. If you have access to 440, transmit on 448.600 (receive on 443.600) and you will usually find someone listening. Let us know how it is getting out. PL tone is not required at the present time.

The 147.15/75 machine continues to do well at its Brandywine location. It is open to all, provided you have PL 114.8 working. So give it a try! It is certainly not over-utilized!

That's all for this month, folks! 73, Al W2GJS



Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 8:00 P.M. - Third Monday of the month except July and August at Sterling Community Center Annex, Church Rd. (Rt. 625) near Route 28, Sterling, VA.

Mailing: Call Box 599, Sterling, VA 20167. Information: Bill Lorentz, KS4II, 703-444-6341 or via email KS4II@AOL.com.

Home Page: www.qsl.net/sterling

Club Callsign: K4NVA

Fourteen members attended the January SPARC meeting. By the time this is published all of our members should have paid their 1999 dues and submitted an updated membership application. This information is important so that we can keep

our ARRL affiliated club information on file with the ARRL current.

Congratulations to the Foundation for Amateur Radio on their new website and thanks to them for their offer to sponsor award plaques for the 1999 Virginia QSO Party.

We pause now for a commercial announcement....the 1999 Virginia QSO Party will be held March 20 - 22, 1999. Additional information may be found on the SPARC website www.qsl.net/sterling or by contacting KS4II@aol.com. We now return to your regular column.

Thanks to Dick Maylott, W2YE and Mike Sheleheda, KD4MTW for attending the Richmond FrostFest and representing the ARRL Incoming QSL Bureau.

73, Bill, KS4II



The Middle Atlantic FM and Repeater Council, Inc.

Meetings: Coordinating Committee (CC) normally meets the last Monday of each month, 19:30, in the OEP conference room of the Prince George's County Emergency Operations Center off Central Avenue.

Address: P.O. Box 1022, Savage, Md. 20763-1022 for all correspondence.

Internet:www.T-MARC.org.

E-mail: TMARC@T-MARC.org

Officers: President – Larry DiAnna WA3KOK (410) 792-3494, Idanna@ teamvideo.com. CC Chairman – Bill Conaway W8HNT Pager (703) 741-4251, conaways@erols.com. Ombudsman – Jim Erickson K3LFO (410) 549-1041 k3lfo@erols.com. Public Info. Officer – Dave Prestel W8AJR (410) 203-9432 dprestel @sprintmail.com.

Who Coordinates the Coordinators?

Repeater coordinators are voluntary individuals or associations who attempt to allocate frequencies to repeater operators in a way that avoids mutual interference. The task is unpaid and frequently thankless. If interference occurs, then the coordinator is at fault. If an unpractical request is denied, then the coordinator is at fault. All in all, a perfect voluntary task for those who thrive on frustration and abuse.

The task is necessary, all the same. In most areas of the country, there are far more folks who want frequencies than there are frequencies to give. When good antenna locations are limited, repeaters tend to congregate at the good sites, increasing the likelihood of mutual interference. Over time, local coordination groups have come into existence to referee the conflicts that inevitably arise. Each coordinator limits its activities to a geographic area, frequently defined by state boundaries.

RF does not respect any political boundaries, and so there have also been conflicts between adjacent coordination groups. Out of the need for a higher level of coordination has risen the National Frequency Coordination Council (NFCC). The NFCC acts as a coordinator of coordinators, certifying local coordinators to a commonly agreed to set of minimum qualifications, and working to resolve conflicts between coordinators.

Repeater coordination can function only with the cooperation of the repeater owners. The coordinators' decisions do not have the force of law. Repeater operators who chose to avoid coordination are not in violation of the law, unless it can be shown that their operations cause deliberate interference.

The NFCC is preparing a request to the FCC to issue Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) proposing to amend Part 97 of the Rules and Regulations to formally recognize the process of coordination, to establish a process for formal certification of coordinators (via the NFCC), and,

most importantly, to make coordination of repeaters mandatory under the law.

As an amateur, you have a vested interest in this change.



Vienna Wireless Society

Meetings: 7:30 pm the second and fourth Fridays of the month in the cafeteria of the Vienna Elementary School, 128 Center Street South, Vienna, VA 22180.

Nets: Pow-Wow nightly at 9 pm on 28.444 MHz. Slow speed code, nightly 8:30 pm on 28.390 MHz. Vienna Emergency Net, Wednesday 7:30 pm 146.685(-).

Repeaters: K4HTA 146.685(-), 448.375(-). **Information:** Steven Karty, N5SK, president, (703) 938-5454; Programs: Mike Steussy, AE4R, (703) 281-0010.

Mailing: P.O. Box 418, Vienna, VA 22183

The Vienna Wireless Society (VWS) Amateur Radio Club Meeting of 8 January was canceled because of the severe weather which caused the Vienna Elementary School to close. When schools close for bad weather on the day of the meeting, the meeting is also canceled. The VWS Meeting on 22 January 1999 was held in the cafeteria of the Vienna Elementary School, 128 Center Street South, in Vienna, VA, at 7:30 pm (as will all future meetings until the Vienna Community Center becomes available). There were 24 members and 4 visitors including the evening's speaker.

RELAY: The Relay is the Newsletter of the VWS, which is edited by Jim Parsons, WA4LTO. Jim said that the current issue, delayed by the power outages caused by the weather, was "on time" for the 22 January meeting. Jim had occasion to review Relays for up to 10 years back and noted that some of the old issues ran up to 10 pages, a far cry from

today's usual four. Many features, such as articles, jokes, stories and the swap column are missing because members haven't submitted anything for them. Jim urged us to get material to him by phone, E-mail, snail-mail, drop-off or any other means.

WINTERFEST Hamfest: Winterfest will be Sunday, 28 February 1999 at the Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike (Route 236) in Annandale, VA (less than one mile from the Capital Beltway around Washington, D.C.). Mike Toia, K3MT, and Pete Sypher, KC4SI, reported that they had developed a site plan (with 1100 parking spaces including 160 tailgating locations) and established a traffic pattern. Pete is handling table sales. Flyers were distributed at the Richmond Hamfest and at the January FAR Meeting. Mike made a list of nearby hams by zip code, for members to distribute flyers to. Setup will start on Saturday, 27 February about 6 pm, vendor admission 8 pm, and lockup around midnight. The Hamfest begins on Sunday, 28 February with Frostbite Tailgate opening at 6 am on a first-come basis. The indoor area opens 7 am, and ARRL VE exams are at 8 am the same day. Cleanup should start mid-afternoon.

Training: Kurt Wehle, WA4SMI, said he had been contacted by a Scout leader who had several teenagers interested in getting a no-code license. So Kurt will start a course on 22 March, hoping to convince them to study the code too.

Leading Edge: The Leading Edge is the VWS technical journal, which is issued yearly and edited by Kerry Kingham, WA4BQM. Although illness and loss of electricity from the ice storm slowed down the final preparation, it is almost ready for printing.

VWS Board Meetings are at 8 PM on the first Monday of each month at a new location, the Tysons Corner Pizza Hut just off Route 7 on Watson Street. These are open Board Meetings, and any interested members are encouraged to attend.

Program: The speaker at the 22 January meeting was Leo Boberschmidt, W3LEO, program manager of MADRAS radio club and president of National Capital DX Association, who talked about DX practice. He also discussed DX techniques and mentioned several local on-line and live sources for help and information about DXing. He concluded his presentation with a videotape showing a DXpedition to a very cold island near Antarctica.

FUTURE PROGRAMS:

12 FEB: Open (Possibly something on DX Awards)

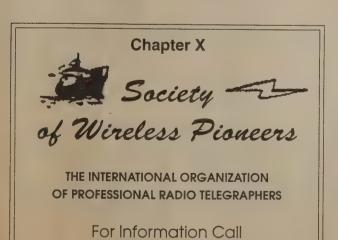
26 FEB: Mike Toia, K3MT; Hamfest plans and surprise technical topic

12 MAR: Bruno Pattan, engineer and VWS member will give a presentation on "space junk" entitled "The Trashing of Space."

26 MAR: VWS Banquet (Regular Meeting Canceled)

9 APR: Joel Knoblock, KA3QPG from The RF Connection will talk about and demonstrate the fine art of uniting coax cable and connectors.

73, Steven N5SK



(703) 536-9537



Woodbridge Wireless, Inc.

Meetings: Second Tuesday of each month at Springwoods and Chaucer, Lake Ridge, VA. Net: Monday nights at 2000 on 147.24 with

224.78 link.

Packet: N4SR 145.63 (DX packet cluster)

Luncheon: Every Friday at noon. Check-in

on 147.24 for location.

Repeaters: WB4FQR 147.24 (+), WB4FQR 224.78 (-), WB4FQR 444.90 (+), N4LJZ 147.585 simplex PL-100 HZ

Mailing: PO Box 112, Woodbridge, VA 22194 Information: Bob Graham, K4RG, 703/878-0697

Web Page: http://www.pwcweb.com/wwi/

Although many WWI projects and efforts were completed last year, there are several that are planned or underway his year. If any of them seem interesting to you, or if you just want to learn more about the subject, please contact any of the club officers or the POC listed.

- -SAN ANDRES DXPEDITION (1-10 March) W4DC, K5OF... See below
- -TECHNICIAN CLASS (April to May) WD4AIR
- -CREW SUPPORT (March to May) KB2ECN
- -STORAGE AREA ideas needed!
- -PORTABLE REPEATER most components are in hand.
- -OUTSIDE LIGHTING ON BUS K5OF -FIELD DAY ROTOR AND ANTENNA REPAIR AND PREP (May to June) - W4DC

WWI 1999 SAN ANDRES DXPEDITION

Right now, members of WWI are on their way to San Andres Island, They plan to operate as HK0/W4DC during the ARRL 1999 DX phone Contest on March 6 & 7. Try working them on all six bands. The operating Team includes Denis W4DC, Ed

K5OF, Jack AA3KX, Carl WB4ZNH, Martha WN4FVU, Everett WZ8P and Vic N2PP. The support team at home includes Mike KA4RRU, Bob KR4KF, John K5OF, John KC4YXB, and Steve N4DXS. Located at 12°34'N 81°42'W, San Andres is a Caribbean island about 450 miles northwest of Colombia and 118 miles east of Nicaragua. Although the island is Colombian soil, it counts as a separate DXCC entity with the prefix "HKØ". It is IOTA NA033.

A very small place, San Andres is only 1 _ to 2 miles wide and 12 miles long. It's shaped sort of like a sea horse with its tail pointing straight down. Most flights to San Andres originate from the Colombia mainland. However, most of the team plan from to fly from San Jose, Costa Rica, based on the recommendations of others. The Colombian flag carrier Socidad Aeronautica de Medallin serves the island from San Jose.

San Andres is noted for its natural beauty beaches, clear waters, coral reefs, marine life, and pleasant 80° air and water temperatures. However, we understand that there are still some challenges for travelers, like occasional blackouts and some problems with the water. We've been told that fresh water is scarce, tap water is undrinkable, and hot water is not always available. But hey, what would a DXpedition be without a few challenges?

The most popular months for a visit are January through April, and July through September, when it is relatively dry. Spring and fall tend to be rainy. The island is on U.S. Eastern Standard Time, and the official currency is the Colombian Peso.

For more information and log checking, visit the Woodbridge Wireless homepage and click on DXPEDITION. (http://www.pwcweb.com/wwi/DXpedition/).

YORK SPRINGFEST 1999

sponsored by Keystone VHF Club, Inc. - W3HZU

Sunday March 14, 1999 8am - 2pm

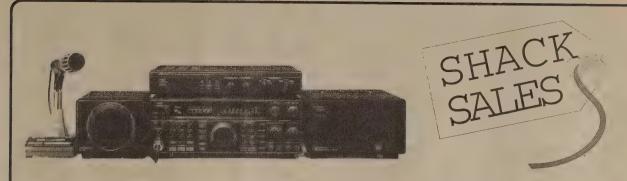
at York Co. Vo-Tech School, York PA - 500 yards from I-83, Exit 6 (Queen St.)

Tailgating opens at 6am - VE testing onsite at 9am

Talk-in on 146.97-

For more info or table sales contact **Richard Goodman**, **WA3USG**, at **(717) 697-2353**Visit our homepage at *http://members.aol.com/yorkfest* for a

money-saving coupon and more info



Non-commercial advertising of Amateur associated equipment is available to subscribers of *Auto-Call* at the rate of **5** cents per word with a **\$2.00 minimum**. Commercial vendors and non-subscriber rate is 17 cents per word with a \$5.50 (1 inch) minimum. Special headings or special spacing (e.g. one item per line) may be used but such ads will be charged at the column inch rate.

Estate sales for Widows assistance handled by a FAR club will be published without cost.

Your full name and address must be provided with each ad but need not be published. No ads

will be accepted over the telephone and all ads must be prepaid. Ads that will be running for longer than 1 month must be accompanied by a letter stating the length that the ad is to be run. Since no effort is made to investigate advertisers, no warranty can be implied. Copy MUST be received by the 1st day of the month prior to the month of publication. Send all commercial and non-commercial advertising and Shack Sales to:

John Queen, Auto-Call Editor 755 Woodland Way, Owings, MD 20736 (301) 855-0198

FOR SALE by original owner: Furnished splitfoyer single dwelling of about 2K sq. feet. having brick front and 1/2 sides plus double-insulated vinyl. Located on 1/4 acre in Lee District, close to Huntley Meadows Park and near Ft. Belvoir. Very quiet area w/no through traffic. House is A/C. Upper Level: 3 BR, 1 BA, 1 Ham Shack room; L/ R w fireplace; 10' X 10' fully equipped kitchen; D/ R leading to 115 sq. ft. deck; oak floors and W/W carpeting. Lower Level: 1 BA; Paneled rec. room; library w/fireplace; utility room w/W&D; 11 ft. workbench, etc, etc. Antenna Farm: 30' Rohn grandfathered tilt - over tower (non-guyed) w/ Mosley Classic 36 6 element HF beam and CD rotator; 2m Ringo Ranger @ 33 ft; 4 element 2m beam & rotator; 18" satellite TV dish; Mosley ground-mounted vertical; trapped inverted HF "V" cables etc, with manuals. In Shack: Drake MN4 matchbox; Kenwood TS820S H.F. w/analog-digital readouts; VFP ANC - 4 noise canceller; MJF Super

Log Speech Processor; Azden PCS 7000H 50w 2m transceiver; DC power supply; manuals and numerous other items. (703) 780-5459 KA4MFF. jstreet42@erols.eom. [05/99]

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-930 w/speaker and mike. MFJ 3KW antenna tuner. Contact Jack Keith (703) 820-8609 for details.

FOR SALE: Widows assistance from the estate of Ed Phillips, W3TSK. Heathkit IM-2410 Frequency Counter, \$50.00; Heathkit VF-1 Frequency Osillator, \$20.00; Healthkit HM-11 SWR Meter, \$15.00; Heathkit HW-101 10-80 Meter Transceiver, \$145.00; Heathkit SB-600 Power Supply/Speaker, \$55.00; Heathkit HD-10 Electronic Key, \$25.00; Sony ECM-200S Mike, \$20.00. Please call Bob Henkel, NA3R on 301-649-4494 or e-mail <jrhenkel@erols.com>. All prices are negotiable.

WANTED: Tubes, 860, 861, and 4-1000A pulls. Tube manual (Vade Mecum) 1948, By P.H. Brans. Also RCA 44BX microphone any condx. K4LJH@juno.com (540) 338-7845. [05/99]



Michael C.: Martin N3RWF

Intererence Investigator

ESO&C Substation Operations & Test-Electronics

8400B Old Marlboro Pike Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Office/Fax 301 967-5230 Pager 202 530-3731 Email MCMARTIN@PEPCO.COM

AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE WEEKLY BROADCAST:

Listen to weekly amateur radio and related broadcasts professionally produced by The Amateur Radio Newsline, on the 146.88 repeater each Friday at 7 PM. The broadcasts are downloaded directly off of the Internet to the repeater just hours after they become available.

QSL CARDS FOR WAS AND DXCC CHECKED LOCALLY!

QSLS FOR ARRL WAS AND DXCC AWARDS CAN BE CHECKED LOCALLY, USUALLY ON A WHILE WAIT BASIS. CONTACT K3BEQ (301) 773-5730 FOR DETAILS. CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO DXCC AWARDS. SORRY, NO MAIL-INS. 73 Murray (K3BEQ) mgreen@erols.com



Reminder - all submissions for

are due no later than
the 1st of the month prior to the month of publication!!



Norm's Rotor Service

5263 Agro Drive Frederick, MD 21703 (301) 874-5885

We Rebuild Rotors

Plus:

•Rebuilt rotors for sale • Parts (for U.S.-built rotors)
• We buy used U.S. rotors, control units for CASH!

NORM JEWELER, WINRS

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS SERVICE

is an organization of publishers and editors of Amateur Radio newsletters and members engaged in public relations. Its purpose is to assist editors in any way possible. For information, write to Lee Knirko, W9MOL, Amateur Radio News Service, 833 Park Plaine, Parke Ridge, IL 60067.

Mid-Atlantic Radio Club. Become a part of one of the country's fastest growing vintage radio clubs. The Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club is an active group of radio collectors, restorers and historians. For a sample newsletter, write to Barry Zimmerman, MAARC Membership Chair, 5825 Woodwinds Circle, Frederick, MD 21703-7579. (301) 696-5561.

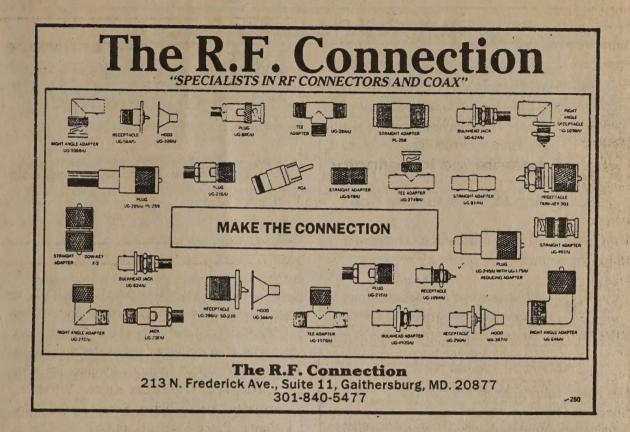
MAHLON LOOMIS INVENTOR OF RADIO

By Thomas Appleby Second Printing Available From

SVANHOLM RESEARCH LABORATORIES

P.O. Box 81 Washington, D.C. 20044 Please Send \$25.00 Donation With \$5.00 for S & H

[07/98]



JWO SERVICES

ARRL, AMECO, RSGB, CALLBOOK, W5YI, CQ, G. WEST, etc. Ham related books; software and video tapes — all at a discount!

Code Tapes-Code Keys-Oscillators-Instructor Guides-all class needs with one call! QST VIEWS CD ROMs (List \$39.95) Only \$37 each: 1990-1994; 1985-1989; 1980-1984; 1975-1979; 1970-1974; 1965-1969; 1960-1964; 1950-1959; 1940-1949; 1930-1939; New 1915-1929!.

QST CD ROMs 1998, 1997, 1996 or 1995 (List \$19.95) Only \$18.50 each. CALLBOOK CD-ROM, 1999! (List \$49.95) Only \$39.00

Latest Edition! QRZ, HAM RADIO! CD-ROM (List \$29.95) Only \$18.00. 1999 ARRL HANDBOOK, New! (List \$32) 1-9, Only \$29.50.

New improved On-Line Catalog - www.jwoservices.com - with easy to use shopping cart, automated order form, and greater security for your credit card.

E-Mail address: johnw3is@igateway.com

Only \$0.40 handling per order plus actual shipping.

JWO SERVICES
Catalog of Savings - FREE!
Over 10 years of excellent service
around the world!

JWO SERVICES

John W. Obradovich, W3IS
12 Hickory Place, Camp Hill, PA 17011
Phone: (717) 731-4747 - Fax: (717) 730-9373
Worldwide Shipments.







We also accept Novus & Discover cards!

Auto Call Production Policy



Deadline: The deadline for ALL submissions to *Auto Call* is the 1st day of the month prior to the month of publication. When submitting via regular mail, time your mailing to ensure delivery by the 1st of the month.

Submitting Material to Auto Call

Submissions for *Auto Call* will be accepted in the following formats:



Electronically: Submissions are accepted via any of the major on line services directly or over the Internet. Use the format exactly as follows:

Internet - JohnQueen@AOL.com
America On Line - JohnQueen
AppleLink - johnqueen@aol.com@internet#
BitNet - johnqueen%aol.com@cunyvm
CompuServe - INTERNET:johnqueen@aol.com
Connect - johnqueen@aol.com
Delphi - internet"johnqueen@aol.com"
FidoNet - To johnqueen@aol.com<CR><CR>
GEnie - johnqueen@aol.com@inet#
MCI Mail - mbx: johnqueen@aol.com
Prodigy - johnqueen@aol.com



Regular Mail: Mail typewritten or computer generated hard copy to: John Queen, Editor, Auto Call Magazine, 755 Woodland Way, Owings, MD 20736. Ensure that

your printed material is dark enough for scanning.

Computer Disk: Submissions are accepted on 3.5" or 5.25" computer disk, in either Macintosh or MS-DOS format, using Word, WordPerfect, or standard ASCII text files. Write your name, telephone number, and club name on the disk. Submit graphic files (club logos, etc) in an EPS or TIFF format. Please verify the readibility of your com-

puter files before sending. If you want your computer disk returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with .32 postage. Otherwise, disks will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.

Preparing Material for Submission

Club Columns: Member clubs are allocated one full page in each issue for club columns. In determining space requirements, figure about 700 words per page not including the space taken up by headings, photos, etc. Indent paragraphs .25" and double space to begin a new paragraph. Send club header information ONLY when different from what was published from previous month. The editor reserves the right to edit any submitted material for space, content and/or applicability.

Hamfests/Events: Member clubs are allocated one full page per year to promote one club sponsored hamfest, convention, or special event. Submit clean black & white camera ready copy only by mail. Master copy should be in black ink on white paper and should be in proper page ratio, (Copy space is 7" wide by 9" high). Copy can be reduced or enlarged as necessary. Electronic submissions of Hamfest ads will not be accepted.

Photographs: The editor will select the best photograph submitted for the cover each month. Photographs should depict club members, club stations, or amateur radio related events that are current and noteworthy. Clubs may also submit photographs for inclusion with their club column. Photographs will be used in columns when space permits. Either B&W or color photos can be used. For each photograph submitted, write your name, phone number, and club name, along with a description of the photograph on a piece of paper, and tape it on the back of the photograph. Do not write on the back of your photo. If you want your photos returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with sufficient postage. Otherwise, photos will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.



BENEFITS FOR YOU . . .

QST, QSL Bureau Awards, Low Cost Insurance, Operating Aids, Government Liason and more - - Much More!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Name:		AUTO-CALL					
Address:		Call:					
City:	State:	Zip:					
request special dues rate	e (U.S. funds). Individuals age 65 and over, upon of \$24 in the U.S. \$36 elsewhere in U.S. funds. I application. For postal purposes, fifty percent	on submitting one-time proof of age, may					
Signature:	gnature: Expires:						
Atlantic Division Director Kay C. Craigie, WT3P 5 Faggs Manor Lane Paoli, PA 1930; Phone: (610) 993-9623	The American Radio Relay 225 Main St. Newington, CT. 06111	1741 Old Chapel Roa					
	R) H Magazina	Subscription Form					
For 1 year may also order a		ew Renewal Gift only \$8.00 per year. (You					
Name:	a de la	Call:					
Address:							
City:	State:	Zip:					
Make check po	yable to the Foundation Radio and mail form to:	P.O. Box 7612 Falls Church, VA 22040-7612					

Area Club Meetings - MARCH 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	DOSARC	2 Antietam PGWA	BARC Montgomery	4 Anne Arundel	Mobileers Charles Co. Shenandoah	6 Green Mtn.
7 Kent Island	8 Carroll Co. Potomac	9 Leisure Frederick Woodbridge	10 VOA FAR - VA Exp Post	Fauquier AMRAD MADRAS Mid-Atlantic Mt. Vernon HEMARC	Vienna So. Maryland Alexandria	North Point
14	OVHA Sterling Park	16 Antietam Arlington	BARC Montgomery Goddard QCWA 137	18 Anne Arundel	19 Shenandoah	20 Capital City QCWA 91
21	Green Mtn. T-MARC Calvert	23 Columbia	24 Laurel Exp Post Moose Carroll Co.	25 MADRAS St. Mary	26 Vienna Central MD	27
28 Adventist	29	30	31			



P.O. Box 7612 Falls Church, VA 22040-7612 Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Arlington, VA 22210 Permit #757

labilladadddalladladdaladddaladadlad

99/09

02649

ALFRED A LAUN III

K3ZO

PO Box 97 Temple Hills MD

20757-0097

Address Service Requested